

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



Summer 2013 . Volume 83 . Number 3



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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder—Dennis Thompson

Robert Cecil

Dennis Thompson came by birding pretty naturally. Born in January 1956, he grew up in Prairie City, Iowa where there were plenty of places for a kid to fish, hunt, and explore nature. What was to become the Savanna Woodland at Neal Smith NWR was a favorite spot to hunt squirrels with his grandfather who was his hunting and fishing mentor. His uncle, Dr. Dale Birkenholz, a professor of Zoology at Illinois State University and an avid birder, made Denny realize that it was okay for him to have an interest in birds as well.

After graduating from Prairie City High School he went on to Iowa State University, majoring in the relatively new field of Computer Science. “I finished all of my required courses by the time I was a senior,” Denny says. “That meant I could take some elective classes, so I took ornithology under Jim Dinsmore. I loved that class—it got me even more excited about birding. I remember the field trips especially. We saw an Evening Grosbeak, probably their last winter in Iowa for years to come, and a Wood Thrush, both new birds for me. That spring I started getting out and birding on my own. I found my first flock of American White Pelicans at Little Wall Lake. I had no idea they existed in Iowa—I thought that was pretty cool.”

Denny received his B.A. Degree in Computer Science in 1978 and started his career at Dial Finance in Des Moines as a programmer in the information technology department. He remained in the same department as it merged with Norwest Bank which then merged with Wells Fargo. At Wells Fargo, Denny maintained programs for and worked with a number of other companies in the financial services industry and later became Vice President of Information Services, a position he held for many years. Since his life in the city initially made it difficult for Denny to visit his old fishing and hunting haunts, he started birding around Des Moines and began meeting some of the other area birders. “Eugene and Eloise Armstrong became my true birding mentors,” Denny explained. “I first met them in 1976 when a fisheries student from Pella took me to the Red Rock Christmas Bird



Dennis and Cecille Thompson in their Johnston yard, Polk, 17 August 2013. Photograph by Veronica Abola.

Count (CBC), and then we got reacquainted around 1978. That started a lifelong friendship that has continued to this day. We traveled all over the state and then all over the country with them. I took my first out of state trip with them and Dick and Paulie Mooney to Western Nebraska to see Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits. I got 17 life birds on that trip including Ferruginous Hawk. Since then, we have traveled together throughout the U.S., the Pribilof Islands, and Belize. I still bird with them; just recently we went up to Tama to see the Black-necked Stilt. I also got to know Gladys Black. She and my uncle got connected somehow and I went with them to see shorebirds at Red Rock Reservoir right after it had filled. I had no idea shorebirds even existed so it was a new experience."

In 1988 Denny's life took a major change with his marriage to Cecille Abola, whom he had met at work. "I was dazzled by her beauty and intelligence," he said, "and obviously she took pity on me." Cecille was from Manila, Philippines and had immigrated to the U.S. with her family when she was eight years old. Her father's uncle was one of the chief architects of the Ruan Building in Des Moines and her father, also an architect, moved to Des Moines to work with him. She quickly took to birding with Denny although she doesn't describe herself as a birder, but more as someone who enjoys the experiences that go with birding. "She is my photographer and spotter," Denny explains. "She's far better at spotting birds than I am." They began traveling around the country to see birds, often with the Armstrongs, visiting "all the birding hotspots" such as southeastern Arizona, the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Duluth, Colorado and others. Later, Dick and Sharon Stilwell asked us to go to Trinidad and Tobago and that was what started my love for birding in the tropics. After that, we went to Belize, Panama, Ecuador (3 times), and Peru." Cecille interjects that she is thankful that some odiferous excursions such as to the Salton Sea to see the Yellow-footed Gull and the Brownsville dump to see the Tamaulipas Crow are now behind them but that those are a small price to pay for being able to explore history, photography, and other cultures that are experienced while birding.

According to Denny, probably the most exotic locale was when they went to Baffin Island in 1991. "It was 400 miles north of the Arctic Circle so the sun never set. We traveled in sleds pulled by snowmobiles and camped on the pack ice with the Inuits. They were great fun to be with. They kind of adopted Cecille. They played this strange card game where the loser got his fingernail painted—they made sure Cecille won and got to do the painting. We chummed for Ivory Gulls with seal blubber—it was one of the target birds for us there. Ironically, the next winter one showed up at Red Rock Res." Denny said that the food on Baffin Island wasn't bad except that he gave caribou meat poor reviews. Their best birds were Ringed Plover, Long-tailed Duck, Rock Ptarmigan, Northern Wheatear, and they enjoyed seeing the breeding jaegers and shorebirds, as well as Narwhal and Bowhead Whales near the pack ice. On their last trip to Ecuador, Cecille got to show off her photography skills, taking the first photo of Ecuador's first Lazuline Saberwing. Several of her photos have been used in the promotional materials for Field Guide tours. "Another cool photo," she adds, "was of a Stripe-chested Antpitta. That was cool since it was a photo of the exact same bird that the first ever sound recording was made." Denny adds that she also saw a Powerful Woodpecker that he missed. "Now that's my most wanted bird since she has it and I don't," he jokes."

One trip Cecille didn't enjoy as much as she had expected was back to the Philippines

for her father's family reunion. "Manila was unbelievably crowded and very little of the beauty I remembered remained. The traffic was crazy. If there were five lanes in the road, there were eight lanes of traffic with motor bikes weaving in and out of it all. Besides, my roots were really in the U.S. now since most of my family was here. It took me 2-3 days to pick up my native language Tagalog but it's amazing what a little immersion does." For Denny, the most interesting part of the trip was the family trying to reconstruct their experiences during World War II. "If we go back sometime," Cecille adds, "it would be to see the things we missed. We saw very few birds anywhere there, even on trips out into the countryside."

Denny's interest in tropical birding has not impeded his enjoyment of Iowa birds and birding. Now that he is retired, his birding day begins at his home near Camp Dodge, where a shaded and landscaped back yard quickly merges into woodland. While he doesn't keep a yard list, he can relate lots of interesting birding there, including three Connecticut Warblers and three Black-throated Blue Warblers over the years, a Whip-poor-will, the Red-shouldered Hawk that visited his suet feeder one winter, and the day he had 21 species in one day at his feeder. Just this May during the cold snap he had 25 American Goldfinches, eight Baltimore Orioles, eight male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, a dozen male Northern Cardinals, and six Indigo Buntings in a single day. He does keep an Iowa list, which is now at 372, and chases birds more frequently now that he is not working. "In Iowa I like the marshes best," he explains, "Chichaqua, Dunbar Slough, Snake Creek Marsh, but really I like all of Iowa's birding. The best bird I found in Iowa was the state's first Barrow's Goldeneye at Forney Lake in 1984. I was with Eugene and Eloise Armstrong and listed off the birds I was seeing through the scope, said 'Barrow's Goldeneye' and went on the next bird to see their reaction." "Hold on!" they said. "What?"

Denny doesn't spend all his time chasing birds or in the tropics. He has led the monthly Des Moines Audubon field trips for 20 years or more, sharing his expertise and enthusiasm with the participants. For the past two years he was the Polk County Conservation Board's bluebird trail coordinator, and he still does the 25 boxes on the Jester Park trail. "The good thing about that is that it forces me to get out," he notes. He was active in Iowa's recently completed Breeding Bird Atlas program, completing several blocks himself and visiting about 40 total. He has compiled the Des Moines Christmas Bird Count for 20 years, led field trips for Carl Bendorf's Iowa Young Birders group, done numerous programs for church and civic groups, and regularly submits field reports for Iowa Bird Life. "I wasn't really involved in the IOU," he adds, "because I was really involved at work. Now that I am retired I decided if you want to contribute to something's success, you need to get involved, which was why I just agreed to serve as vice president."

Regarding future adventures in birding, Denny and Cecille will be going to Cambodia in 2015, and Cecille would like to revisit her native Philippines, but this time to see more of its beautiful natural areas. And while the world has many more places to go and many more birds to see, it's probably safe bet that Denny and Cecille will treasure not only the exotic birds of exotic locales but will continue to savor what their own state has to offer. Cecille puts it well. "Birders have a great life."

1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311 (wewarb@aol.com)

Field Reports—Spring 2013

Tyler M. Harms



Tyler M. Harms

WEATHER

Despite a relatively normal start, the spring of 2013 was another one for the record books. March greeted us with cool temperatures averaging 7.4 degrees below normal, a dramatic contrast to last March, which produced temperatures peaking nearly 15 degrees above average. Average amounts of precipitation occurred statewide, most of which fell during a single storm event from 8-11 March. This event produced rain and snow across the state with as much as 13.5 inches of snow reported in Mason City. The frost was still in the ground across much of the northern half of Iowa through the end of the month. This resulted in little infiltration of precipitation received and quickly refilled lakes and wetlands from drought conditions. Saylorville Reservoir, for example,

reached a record low pool elevation of 829.26 feet above sea level on 8 March but run-off from the first storm event quickly re-filled the reservoir to normal levels of 836 feet by 16 March.

April 2013 ranks as the wettest April in 141 years of records, with precipitation amounts averaging 3.12 inches above normal. A storm event from 9-11 April produced more than 2 inches of rain across the northern half of the state and a second event from 17-18 April produced a statewide average of 2.69 inches of rain with as much as 7 inches falling in Centerville. In addition to rain, snow was also frequent this month with up to 6 inches falling in Rock Rapids and Sibley in one storm from 10-11 April. Record precipitation amounts were reported at 11 locations across Iowa. The cool air remained through April with temperatures averaging 5 degrees below normal.

Above-average precipitation continued in May with amounts totaling 4.28 inches above normal, making May 2013 the wettest May in 141 years of records. The most notable event occurred from 1-3 May when several inches of snow in 30 degree temperatures enveloped northwestern Iowa and while southeastern Iowa was enjoying temperatures in the 80s. This event produced state record snowfall amounts for a single day in May, with 11 inches reported in Britt and 13 inches in Osage. However, warmer temperatures across much of eastern Iowa kept most of the precipitation in the form of rain. Driving to Cedar

Falls from Ames for the spring meeting, it was fascinating to experience heavy snow in the Iowa Falls area only to arrive in Cedar Falls with green grass. A drastic warm-up spread across the state from 13-14 May with temperatures topping 100 degrees in Sioux City. Warm temperatures remained for the rest of the month but precipitation continued to fall. The heaviest rain of the month came over Memorial Day weekend with several locations in northwestern and central Iowa reporting more than 8 inches. This resulted in widespread flooding across the state that continued well into the summer season.

HABITAT, GENERAL TRENDS

Given the abnormal weather conditions, I must wonder what the birds were thinking. The above-average temperatures from last spring and the below-average temperatures and record precipitation this spring certainly span the range of weather extremes for Iowa, often bringing thoughts of climate change to mind. Interestingly, despite the drastic difference in weather conditions between years, there was not much variation in arrival times and peak migration for most Neotropical migrants. Peak migration dates for Tennessee Warbler, an abundant and highly visible migrant, have fallen in an 8-day interval (14 May 2010, 13 May 2011, 10 May 2012, 18 May 2013) for the past four years despite highly variable weather conditions. One difference this year is that few migrants lingered into late spring or early summer. Compared to previous years, there were few reports of migrant warblers, flycatchers, and especially shorebirds in late May.

The below-average temperatures experienced in Iowa this spring were also experienced by neighboring states like Minnesota and North and South Dakota, causing some of the latest ice-out dates in history. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, this year produced the latest ice-out dates in history, with many lakes keeping ice through mid-May compared to the average in early or mid-April. This, coupled with the late winter storms in late April and early May, caused many migratory waterbirds to be stalled on larger lakes and reservoirs. Several species of diving ducks lingered into mid- and late May including Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Lesser Scaup. Even more interesting was the influx of Horned Grebes in early May, a likely consequence of the late winter storm on 1-3 May. Counts of Horned Grebes ranged from 38 to 86 on 2-4 May at several sites, which are some of the highest counts ever recorded in spring. Ultimately, how did this affect the success of these species later on their breeding grounds?

Although the colder temperatures caused winter to stick around a bit longer than usual, we did see a positive impact on our wetlands. The ground remained frozen through late March (later than normal) resulting in little infiltration of precipitation and increased run-off. A single storm from 8-11 March produced heavy precipitation and quickly refilled wetlands that were dry from the previous year's drought. The dry conditions of last year and wet conditions of this year resulted in a natural draw-down cycle that is necessary to maintain quality wetland habitat. This cycle causes wetlands to be de-watered, killing unwanted fish and stimulating vegetation growth, then re-filled to further promote emergent and submergent vegetation growth and increase aquatic invertebrate communities. As a result, wetland-dependent birds experienced excellent habitat conditions across the state this spring and early summer. It will be interesting to see if these species are more abundant than normal during the summer season.

In the 2012 spring report, Matt Kenne wondered if these abnormal weather conditions were simply a fluke or the new norm in a changing climate. I wonder what next spring will bring?

UNUSUAL SPECIES

This appeared to be the spring of western species in the state. Rare species encountered included Say's Phoebe, Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Varied Thrush, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, and Painted Bunting. Other accidental or casual species this spring included Neotropic Cormorant, Glossy Ibis, Sprague's Pipit, White-winged Crossbill, and Hoary Redpoll. Other notable birds included Red-throated Loon, more reports of Red-necked Grebes and Common Terns than usual, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, up to three Bewick's Wrens away from the regular location, and several lingering winter finches including both crossbills, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin.

The list of species whose first arrival was within the range of the three earliest dates on record was far shorter than last year. The most notable was a record early (by 2 weeks!) American Bittern in Ames. Others included American Avocet, Spotted Sandpiper, Eastern Wood-pewee, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Marsh Wren, and Veery. In line with the weather patterns, it was not too surprising that some winter species lingered late, including a record late Northern Shrike.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Accidental or Casual species, * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **alt** = alternate (plumage), **A** = area, **BBS** = breeding bird survey, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **M** = marsh, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **ph** = photo, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **se half** = diagonal se half, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SL** = sewage lagoons, **SP** = state park, **WA** = wildlife area, **yg** = young.

Key to maps: shading = species reported in county. In most cases, the species was probably nesting in the county although evidence was presented only in a few cases.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Greater than normal numbers of this species were observed this spring due to the late ice-out conditions that caused a stall in waterfowl migration. Numbers peaked in mid-

March with 30,000 at Brown's L *Woodbury* (GLV) and 7000 at Big Creek SP *Polk* (SJD), both 19 Mar, as well as 6000 at Anderson L *Hamilton* 24 Mar (SJD). The last 2 were at Waterworks P *Polk* 23 May (JB).

Snow Goose: Numbers peaked in mid-March along the Missouri River corridor with 150,000 at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDY) and 100,000 at Snyder Bend *Woodbury* (GLV), both 14 Mar. Outside the Missouri River corridor, 1200 were at Anderson L *Hamilton* 13 Apr (SJD) and 450 at a private wetland *Boone* 7 Apr (TMH). The last spring record of this species was 31 May at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV).

Ross's Goose: Migration appeared to peak later than the other white geese with 150 observed 7 Apr on a private wetland *Boone* (TMH), as well as 85 on 25 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 71 on 13 Apr at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD). A single bird was lingering at Dunbar Sl *Greene* 7 May (DTh).

Cackling Goose: First: 50 at Big Creek

SP *Polk* on 2 Mar (JB). Most: 500 at Brown's L *Woodbury* on 19 Mar (GLV). Last: 2 at West Branch SL *Cedar* on 21 Apr (BSc).

Canada Goose: Few reports. The most was 5000 at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 3 Mar (SJD).

Mute Swan: All: 2 at Amana Lily L *Iowa* on 26 Mar (JF), 1 at West Branch SL *Cedar* on 20 Apr (CRE), and several reports of presumably the same 2 birds at Hawk-eye WA *Johnson* from 23 Apr to 21 May (JF, JLF).

Trumpeter Swan: Records of this species from spring were from central Iowa and east to the Mississippi River, with one record of 5 birds occurring in southwest Iowa at Viking Lake SP *Montgomery* on 23 Mar (KDy). The most was 27 at Ada Hayden P *Story* on 3 Mar (SJD). Several pairs were reported at various locations in late spring (CJF, TMH, SJD, RLC), with probable breeding reported in *Cerro Gordo* on 23 Apr (CJF) and confirmed breeding reported at Anderson L *Hamilton* on 26 Apr (SJD) and Dunbar Sl *Greene* on 13 May (SJD).

Tundra Swan: One or two birds lingering from winter were reported 1-7 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO, SJD). Reports on Pool 9, Mississippi R *Allamakee*, a usual migration stopover for this species, included up to 200 on 21-22 Mar (BR, SJD). Remaining reports included 1 on 31 Mar at Weise Sl *Muscatine* (CRE) and 22 on 3 Apr at Amana Lily L *Iowa* (JF).

Wood Duck: Several reports, the first of 6 on 16 Mar at Cedar View Trail *Jefferson* (DCP) and the last of 1 female occupying a nest structure on 11 May in Indianola *Warren* (JS).

Gadwall: Peak numbers of this species occurred later this spring than the previous few years with 112 on 14 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), 270 on 20 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), and 150 on 21 Apr at Sedan

Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC). The first bird was on 8 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB) and the last on 24 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

American Wigeon: The first were 24 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC). The peak was 51 on 6 Apr at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH). The last was 22 May consisting of a single bird at Willow Sl *Mills* (KDy).

American Black Duck: Nine reports of 1 or 2 birds were received from across the state with the first on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD) and the last on 30 Mar at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (CRE).

Mallard: Most: 50,000 on 14 Mar at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy) and 32,000 on 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Blue-winged Teal: The most was 560 on 20 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD) with the first on 12 Mar at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) and the last on 22 May at Willow Sl *Mills* (KDy).

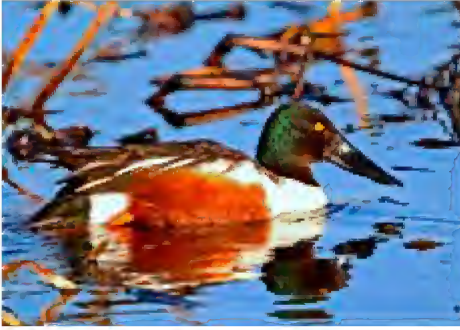
Blue-winged X Cinnamon Teal: All: 23, 27 Apr at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JS, AB-ph), 11 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BSc), and 15 May at the Holstein SL *Ida* (SJD).

Cinnamon Teal: All: 14 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (AHW), 16 Apr at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* (RA, PHA), and 26 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JLF).

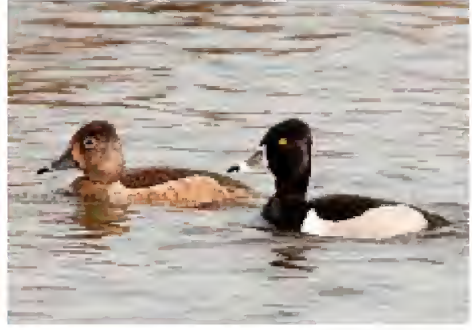
Cinnamon X Green-winged Teal: A single individual was observed 27 Apr at Harrier Marsh *Boone* (LGD-ph).

Northern Shoveler: The first were observed 11 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB), the peak occurring in mid-Apr with reports of 900 at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD), 850 at Swan Lake SP *Carroll* (SJD), and 262 in Urbandale *Polk* (BE). The last were observed 11 May at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Northern Pintail: Migration of this species hit Iowa on schedule with 12000 on 14 Mar at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy),



Northern Shoveler, Harrier M, Boone, 25 April 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



Ring-necked Ducks, Polk, 5 April 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

1960 at Saylorville Res Polk and 300 at Big Creek SP Polk, both on 17 Mar. Only three reports came after 27 Mar with the last on 20 Apr at Cone Marsh Louisa (CRE).

Green-winged Teal: Migration appeared to start 24 Mar with 375 at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC) and end 13 Apr with the most of 820 at Morse L WPA Wright (SJD). The last were 22 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDY).

Canvasback: Peak numbers included 2260 on 6 Apr at Clear L Cerro Gordo (PH), 320 on 30 Mar at Crystal L Hancock (JB), and 320 on 7 Apr in Franklin (SJD). The last bird seen this spring was 18 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Redhead: Similar to Canvasback, the peak number of 1817 was on 6 Apr at Clear L Cerro Gordo (PH). A total of 50 on 13 Apr at Cardinal M Winneshiek (DC) was a high count for that county. Twenty-three on 23 May at Ada Hayden P Story were the last observed this spring (WO).

Ring-necked Duck: This species first visited Iowa *en masse* with 1100 on 2 Mar at Riverton WA Fremont (KDY). The most was 1303 on 6 Apr at Clear L Cerro Gordo (PH) and the last bird on 31 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Greater Scaup: Several reports of less

than 12 occurred mostly in central and eastern Iowa, the first of which was 7 Mar at Ada Hayden P Story (WO) and the last 2 May in the snow at Anderson L Hamilton (SJD).

Lesser Scaup: Peak numbers included 4550 on 6 Apr at Clear L Cerro Gordo (PH) and 1600 on 14 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (AB). The first spring birds were observed 2 Mar at Lake Sugema Van Buren (RLC) and the last 31 May at Adesa Pond Polk (JB).

White-winged Scoter: The only report was a first-spring male on 24 Mar at Brushy Creek SRA Webster (SJD-ph).

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 on 2 Mar and 15 Mar in LeClaire Scott (JF), 1 on 13 Apr at Lost Island L Palo Alto (LAS), and a stunning male was observed 4 May at Greenbelt L Black Hawk during the Spring Meeting in Cedar Rapids (m.ob.).

Bufflehead: An impressive 833 was the peak reported in the mass of diving ducks at Clear L Cerro Gordo on 6 Apr (PH). The last was 16 May at Inwood Lyon (SJD).

Common Goldeneye: The most was 2250 on 22 Mar at Pool 9, Mississippi R Allamakee (SJD). Other high counts included 515 on 16 Mar at Red Rock Res Marion (AB) and 397 on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD). A single female was the last to be seen on 13 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (SJD).



White-winged Scoter, Brushy Creek RA, Webster, 24 March 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Pied-billed Grebe, Big Wall L, Wright, 13 April 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Hooded Merganser: The first were 7 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB) with the peak of 145 on 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). A female occupying a nest structure at Hooper WA *Warren* was the last reported on 6 May (JS).

Common Merganser: Spring started with a bang for this species with 1200 on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). The most was 4520 on 16 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB). The last was a single bird at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on 17 May (LAS).

Red-breasted Merganser: The first was reported 6 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB) with high counts of 225 on 30 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD) and 172 on 6 Apr at Clear L *Cerro Gordo* (PH).

Ruddy Duck: Peak numbers included 962 on 13 Apr and 940 on 14 Apr, both at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB, BE). The last 3 individuals were seen 29 May at Colo Ponds *Story* (HZ).

Northern Bobwhite: All: 15 on 3 Apr at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC), 2 from 4 Apr-31 May near *Fairfield Jefferson*, 4 on 21 Apr at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC), 3 on 9 May in *Wayne* (SJD), and 2 on 30 May near *Bacon Creek Woodbury* (GLV).

Gray Partridge: Only five reports of

this species for spring including 15 on 7 Mar at Union Hills WPA *Cerro Gordo* (CJF), 13 on 8 Mar in *Hardin* (MP), 2 on 4 May in *Hardin* (SJD), 1 on 5 May northeast of *Polk City Polk* (AB), and 2 on 21 May in *Story* (MP).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Reports of this species increased this year compared to previous years despite the predicted low numbers of this species statewide. The most was 10 on 13 May at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC).

Greater Prairie-chicken: The only report was of 8 birds on the Kellerton lek *Ringgold* on 28 Mar (DTh).

Wild Turkey: All: 7 on 3 Mar at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose*, 9 on 17 Mar near *Maxwell Story* (HZ), and 2 on 4 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (PET).

Red-throated Loon: The only report was 1 on 4 May at Sandy Beach *Johnson* (JF).

Common Loon: Yodels of the first bird were enjoyed 21 Mar at Pool 9, Mississippi R *Allamakee* (BR). The most was 53 on 13 Apr at Lake *Cornelia Wright* (SJD) and the last on 25 May at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (JG).

Pied-billed Grebe: The first arrived 23 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JB). Migration appeared to peak in mid- to late Apr

with 250 on 22 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Horned Grebe: This species was seen in spectacular numbers this spring compared to previous years, particularly in early May. High counts included 86 on 2 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD), 69 on 2 May at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), and 48 on 3 May at Grundy County L *Grundy* (JG, MP). This is likely the result of a record snow event that dropped several inches north of a line from southwestern to northeastern Iowa and caused the temperatures to drop into the 30s from 2-3 May. Otherwise, a typical year for this species with the first bird on 18 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and the last on 16 May at Inwood *Lyons* (SJD).

Red-necked Grebe: More records of this species were received this spring than previous years with the first observed 15 Apr in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). A single bird appeared 4 May at the Cherokee SL *Cherokee* making it the first record of this species in the county. Other records included 1 on 19 Apr at Little Wall L *Hamilton* (SJD), 1 on 21 Apr at L *Cornelia Wright* (SJD), 1 on 2 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD, WO), 1 on 3 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD-ph), 1 on 3 May at Amana Lily L *Iowa* (JLF, JF, BSc), 1-2 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (m. ob.), 1 on 4 May at Big Woods L *Black Hawk* (MP), 1 on 5 May at Richard's M *Hamilton* (KDY), and 1 on 10 May and 18 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Surprisingly, no breeding evidence was observed this spring, which is often noted in the extreme north-central and northwest portions of the state.

Eared Grebe: The first bird was observed 6 Apr by one of our Iowa Young Birders at Cone Marsh *Louisa* (WWH). Peak numbers were 17 on 16 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD) and 16 on 2 May at Little Wall

L *Hamilton* (SJD), the latter corresponding to a similar peak in numbers of Horned Grebes likely due to a record snow event that swept the state. The last bird was seen 12 May at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (JJD).

Western Grebe: All: 2 birds on 29 Apr and 1 May at Gateway P *Iowa* (CRE, RIA/PHA, JLF), 1 on 30 Apr at Waubonsie Access WA *Fremont* (JWR), 1 on 5 May at Lake Anita SP *Cass* (KDY), and 2 on 15 May at South Twin L *Calhoun* (SJD).

NEOTROPIC COMORANT: A single subadult was observed 13 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: First: 16 Mar at Hallett's Quarry *Polk* (JG). The peak of 3000 reported 18 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB) was the most reported in the last three years. A total of 123 birds were seen near the nesting colony at the Ingham-High Complex *Emmet* on 8 May with 58 occupied nests (TMH).

American White Pelican: Peak numbers were 604 on 21 Apr in *Wright* (SJD) and 550 on 16 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (AB).

American Bittern: Danny Stark found and captured a weakened bird behind Wheatsfield Grocery in Ames *Story* on 7 Mar and transported it to the Iowa State University Wildlife Care Clinic (DJS). This constitutes a record early date for this species in Iowa by more than two weeks, the next earliest record occurring 24 Mar 1979. The bird enjoyed its recuperation at the Clinic and was released 27 Apr at Harrier Marsh *Boone* (DJS). Singles were reported in an additional 20 counties with the peak of 5 observed 13 May at Princeton WA *Scott* (WMZ).

Great Blue Heron: One bird was already occupying a nest 10 Mar at Polk City WA *Polk* (SJD). Most: 12 on 21 Mar at Upper Mississippi NWR *Allamakee* (BR).

Great Egret: First: 3 on 9 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). The peak was 34 on 26 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy).

Snowy Egret: This species appeared nearly statewide this year with the first observed 14 Apr at Manhattan P-Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc). Other birds observed in eastern Iowa included 21 Apr in Amana *Iowa* (JF) and 10 May at Cedar L *Linn* (JF). Singles were also observed in southwestern Iowa 26 Apr and 10 May at Rapp P *Page* (KDy, POR), northwestern Iowa 17 May at West Okoboji L *Dickinson* (MHB), north-central Iowa 25 Apr near McKnight's Point *Pocahontas* (JN), and central Iowa on 1 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Cattle Egret: First were reported 10 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) with the peak of 33 on 15 May at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC). The last bird of spring was on 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Green Heron: All: Singles on 22 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 3 May in northeast Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BT), 4 May at Greenbelt L *Black Hawk* (TMH), 4 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (PET), and 5 May at Sweet Marsh *Bremer* (JB).

Black-crowned Night-heron: Most: 7 on 15 May in *Osceola* (SJD) and 4 on 29 Apr at Riverton WA *Fremont* (KDy). Singles were also observed in an additional 9 counties.

GLOSSY IBIS: A single bird first found 3 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) was seen by many other observers (BSc, m.ob.). It was last observed 4 May (*CRE).

White-faced Ibis: This species was reported in 19 counties this spring, the first on 10 April at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) and the last on 18 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (JG). On 16 Apr, a single bird was observed near Belva-Deer RA *Keokuk* making it the first record for the county (BSc).

Plegadis species: All: 26 on 25 Apr at Nicholson Ford M *Marshall* (Donald Maze

fide JB) and 4 on 10 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DTh).

Turkey Vulture: The first on 8 Mar in Shenandoah *Page* (KDy). The peak of 175 was observed 22 Mar in Bob Cecil's backyard in Des Moines *Polk* (JCe) and the last on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TMH).

Osprey: The first was observed 28 Mar at Hallett's Quarry *Polk* and was observed successfully nesting through 31 May (JG). Other reports came from 8 counties in the eastern half of the state, with the last report of an occupied nest on 11 May at Sand L *Johnson* (MHB).

Mississippi Kite: In addition to the expected report from Des Moines *Polk* (RIC), one individual was observed over Keith Dyche's house on 14 May in Shenandoah *Page* (KDy).

Bald Eagle: Reported in 11 counties statewide, which is an indication that this species has become so common it is being reported less frequently. Peak count was 301 on 17 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), a record count for this site.

Northern Harrier: First: 2 Mar at Lake Sugema Van *Buren* (RLC). The peak was 19 on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD). A pair in suitable breeding habitat at Dewey's Pasture *Palo Alto* on 12 May suggests nesting (LAS).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: All: 1 on 16 Mar in *Mahaska* (WWH), 7 on 21 Apr in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK), 1 on 21 Apr at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC), 1 on 11 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and a late individual on 30 May *Mitchell* (PH).

Cooper's Hawk: All: 1 on 1 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH), 1 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TMH), a territorial individual on 6 May at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK), and 1 on 19 May in West Des Moines *Polk* (RLC).



Broad-winged Hawk, Johnson, 25 April 2013.
Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



Red-tailed Hawk, Mitchell, 23 May 2013.
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

Red-shouldered Hawk: In previous years, scattered reports came mainly from counties in southeast and northeast Iowa. However, only one report on 24 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF Lee (CRE) came from either of these areas. Other reports came from *Fremont* (KDY), *Story* (SJD), *Steve Lekwa fide HZ*, *Marshall* (MP), *Cerro Gordo* (JB), and *Clay* (LAS).

Broad-winged Hawk: The peak of 25 was seen 21 Apr over Ames *Story* (SJD). Territorial birds were observed 5 May at *Jester P Polk* (AB) and 13 May at *Ashworth P Polk* (AB).

Swainson's Hawk: This was the spring to see this species in Iowa with both more reports and more individuals reported than the last three years. Birds were reported in 26 counties, the eastern-most reported 16 Apr in *Washington* (BSc) and 24 Apr in *Cedar Rapids Linn* (BSc). The first birds were reported 6 Apr in *Fremont* (KDY). Migra-

tion appeared to peak in late Apr with 48 reported 24 Apr in *Mills* (KDY), 15 on 25 Apr at *Neal Smith NWR* (KVS), and 14 on 26 Apr at *Rapp P Page* (KDY). The last bird of spring was observed 9 May in *Mitchell* (PH).

Red-tailed Hawk: All: 3 Mar in *Polk* (TMH), 17-18 Mar at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (WWH), 21 Mar at *Upper Mississippi NWR Allamakee* (BR), and 13 Apr at *Sweet Marsh Bremer* (PET).

Rough-legged Hawk: The 25 seen 3 Mar at *Red Rock Res Marion* (SJD) were the most reported in the last three years. Birds were reported in 13 additional counties with the first reported 2 Mar at *Lake Sugema Van Buren* (RLC) and the last reported 28 Apr at *Dunbar SI Greene* (SJD).

Golden Eagle: Single juveniles were reported 1 Apr at *Ledges SP Boone* (SJD) and 4 Apr at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), and single immatures on 23 Mar at Ot-



American Coot, Big Wall L, Wright, 13 April 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

ter Creek M *Tama* (MP) and on 20 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JLF).

Virginia Rail: The first were reported 4 May at Sweet Marsh *Bremer* (JG, JB), which is much later than expected for this species. The last of spring were reported 13 May at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC).

Sora: Similar to Virginia Rail, the first report came much later than expected on 5 May at Sweet Marsh *Bremer* (JB). This species was seen on four other occasions: 5 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 9 May at Doolittle Prairie *Story* (MP), 11 May at Sycamore Bottoms *Johnson* (MHB), and 13 May at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC).

American Coot: Peak numbers included 9000 on 27 Apr at Silver L *Worth* (PH) and 3380 on 14 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB).

Sandhill Crane: Peak numbers included 23 on 21 Mar along the Iowa River Corridor *Benton* (DCH) and 19 on 19 Mar at Otter Creek M *Tama* (DCH). Evidence of nesting was reported 18 May at Hamlin Garland WA *Mitchell* (PH) and two adults were tending to a newly-hatched colt 19 May at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (LR). Nest-

ing reports were fewer this spring than the previous three years.

American Avocet: A single bird reported 8 Apr at Cone M *Louisa* (JF) ties the third-earliest report of this species in spring, the other report from 1991. Peak numbers of 44 and 37 were reported on 9 May at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) and West L *Clarke* (SJD, JJD), respectively. The last 2 birds were reported 27 May at Trumbull L *Clay* (LAS).

Black-necked Stilt: The first was reported 16 Apr at Port Louisa NWR *Louisa* (MSIM-ph). A single bird was reported 1-19 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF), 1 on 28 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD-ph), and 2 on 1 May along the Wapsipinicon R *Scott* (WMZ).

Black-bellied Plover: The first report of spring was 9 on 29 Apr at the Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (POR). Birds were reported throughout May in 3 additional counties (DCH, DTH, JF, JLF) with the last on 27 May at Willow Sl *Mills* (KDy).

American Golden-Plover: The 850 on 20 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD) was the peak count for spring. The last 8 birds were reported 3 May in State Center *Marshall* (DCH).

Semipalmated Plover: All: 1 on 21 Apr at Red Rock Res *Marion* (PET), 12 on 25 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy), 7 on 2 May in *Woodbury* (GLV), 1 on 14 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 4 on 17 May in *Marshall* (MP), and 1 on 22 May at Willow Sl *Mills* (KDy).

Piping Plover: A banded individual appeared 3 May at Oak Grove Beach on Saylorville Res *Polk* and remained through 4 May (SJD, AB). This individual was banded as a chick in 2012 at Lake Sakakawea, North Dakota (SJD). Additional individuals were reported from this location 4-7 May (AB, JG, JB, RIA/PHA). The last bird was seen 11 May at Brushy Creek RA *Webster* (SJD).



Greater Yellowlegs, Morse L, Wright, 13 April 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



Piping Plover, Saylorville Res, Polk, 7 May 2013. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

Killdeer: The first on 8 Mar at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB). The peak count was 226 on 31 Mar at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD).

Spotted Sandpiper: A single bird reported 11 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB) constitutes the 3rd-earliest record for this species, the previous record on 12 Apr 2005. Peak numbers of 32, 27, and 26 were reported 15 May in *Cherokee*, *Osceola*, and *Ida* (SJD).

Solitary Sandpiper: The first was reported 14 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). 1-5 individuals were reported in 9 additional counties with the last on 19 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Greater Yellowlegs: The first bird was reported 29 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD). The peak count was 93 on 20 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD) and the last on 27 May at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (LAS).

Willet: The first bird was reported 16 Apr at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV) with additional reports in 11 counties. The peak count was 20 on 23 Apr at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF) and at the Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (GLV). The last bird was seen 25 May in *Polk* (AB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: First: 1 on 30 Mar

in *Worth* (JB). Peak movement was reported a bit later this year than previous years with 450 on 13 May at Long Pond *Guthrie* (SJD) and 88 on 5 May at Chichaqua Greenbelt *Polk* (AB). 9 on 14 May at Neal Smith NWR was the final report of spring (KVS).

Upland Sandpiper: The first were reported 25 Apr in *Fremont* (KDy), which is significantly later than the previous three years. 1-4 were reported in 6 additional counties.

Whimbrel: A single bird was observed 29 Apr at the Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (POR-ph).

Hudsonian Godwit: The first were reported 12 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy). Migration peaked in mid-Apr with 131 in *Fremont* (KDy) and 112 at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), both on 18 Apr. A second pulse of migrants appeared to pass through in mid-May with 34 on 16 May in *Lyon* (SJD) and 85 on 17 May in *Dallas* (DTh). The last birds were reported 22 May at Willow Sl *Mills* (KDy).

Marbled Godwit: First: 5 on 12 Apr at Keg L *Mills* (KDy). Most: 28 on 24 Apr at the Dairy Ponds *Woodbury* (GLV). Last: 1 on 7-8 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JF).



Hudsonian Godwit, Pintail Wetland, Hardin, 13 May 2013. Photograph by Tom Schilke, Waterloo, IA.



Whimbrel, Woodbury, 29 April 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

Ruddy Turnstone: 1-8 individuals were reported in 6 counties throughout May (KDy, WO, SJD, RLC, JF) with the first on 9 May at Rapp P Page (KDy) and the last on 18 May in Dallas (RIA/PHA).

Stilt Sandpiper: All: 1 on 30 Apr at Dunbar Sl Greene (LGD-ph), 5 on 9 May at Rapp P Page (KDy), 7 on 14 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (RIA/PHA), 22 on 15 May in Ida (SJD), and 35 on 22 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy).

Sanderling: All: 4 on 1 May at Oak Grove Beach, Saylorville Res Polk (DTh), 5 on 9 May at Rapp P Page (KDy), 3 on 11 May at Oak Grove Beach, Saylorville Res Polk (JB), 1 on 15 May at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC), 2 on 21 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF), and 4 on 22 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy).

Dunlin: The peak counts were 20 on 22 May and 26 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy). From 1-12 individuals were reported in 4 additional counties.

Baird's Sandpiper: All: 1 on 30 Mar at Errington M Polk (JCe, AB), 1 on 6 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (JB), 2 on 26 Apr at Meier WA Hardin (MP), and 1 on 15 May at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC).

Least Sandpiper: All: 1 on 6 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (JB), 35 on 14 May at Neal Smith NWR Jasper (KVS), and 6 on 15 May at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC).

White-rumped Sandpiper: This species was well represented in southwest Iowa this spring with the first report of 36 on 9 May at Rapp P Page, 130 on 22 May at Willow Sl Mills, and the peak count of 500 coming as the last report of spring on 26 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy). Away from southwest Iowa, 3-19 individuals were reported in an additional 6 counties throughout May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: First: 1 at Oak Grove Beach, Saylorville Res Polk (DTh) and 2 at Errington M Polk (AB), both on 30 Mar. Migration peaked in late Apr with 326 reported 28 Apr at Dunbar Sl Greene (SJD). The last report of 36 came on 26 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: First: 1 on 16 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD). Most and last: 134 on 26 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDy).

Short-billed Dowitcher: All: 36 on 10 May in Warren (JS) and 10 on 13 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (SJD).



Short-billed Dowitcher, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 16 May 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.



American Woodcock, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 12 April 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

Long-billed Dowitcher: All: 12 on 12 Apr at Keg L Mills (KDy), 3 on 20 Apr at Tom's Pond *Johnson* (JLF), 15 on 23 Apr in *Hamilton* (TMH), 87 on 28 Apr at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (SJD), 18 on 7 May at Dunbar Sl *Greene* (DTh), and 4 on 11 May in *Dallas* (RIA/PHA).

Wilson's Snipe: The first was reported 2 Mar in *Warren* (JS). The most was 23 on 2 Apr at Otter Creek M *Tama* (DTh). The last was 4 on 3 May in *State Center Marshall* (DCH).

American Woodcock: From 1-16 birds were reported in 9 counties with the first on 10 Mar near *Fairfield Jefferson* (DCP) and the last were two birds flushed off nests on 20 Apr and observed incubating through 29 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Wilson's Phalarope: Seven were reported on 12 Apr at *Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res Polk* (KVS). Peak migration started in western Iowa on 28 Apr with 105 at *Lost Island L Palo Alto* (LAS) and continued through 15 May with 278 in *Ida* (SJD). The last on 22 May at *Willow Sl Mills* (KDy).

Red-necked Phalarope: All: 1 on 4 May at *Errington M Polk* (BE), 6 on 15 May at the *Holstein SL Ida* (SJD), 8 on 22 May at

Willow Sl Mills (KDy), and 1 on 28 May at the *Hubbard Lagoons Hardin* (MP).

Bonaparte's Gull: First on 30 Mar at *Saylorville Res Polk* (SJD). Migration peaked on 5 May with 368 at *Saylorville Res Polk* (AB) and 182 at *Little Wall L Hamilton* (SJD). Last: 15 May at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC).

Franklin's Gull: First: 3 on 16 Mar at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB). Peak was 500 on 5 May at *Storm L Buena Vista* (DB). Last were 2 on 24 May at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC).

Ring-billed Gull: Six reports with the most being 3600 on 16 Mar at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB).

Herring Gull: First: 73 on 9 Mar at *Saylorville Res Polk* (AB). From 1-20 were reported 16 Mar – 7 May at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC). Last on 11 May at *Union Slough NWR Kossuth* (MCK).

Thayer's Gull: All: 2 adults were seen 7 Mar at *Lock & Dam 14, Mississippi R Scott* (JF).

Iceland Gull: A 2nd winter bird was seen 7 Mar at *Lock and Dam 14, Mississippi R Scott* (JF).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 3 on 7 Mar at *Lock & Dam 14, Mississippi R Scott*

(JF), 1 on 23 Mar at Cedar L Linn (JF), 1 on 30 Mar – 1 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (DTh, AB, JG), 1 on 7 Apr at Cedar L Linn (JF), 1 on 14 Apr at Sandy Beach Johnson (JF), and 1 on 14 Apr at the 16th Street retention basin Dubuque (CLW).

Glaucous Gull: A 1st basic bird on 7 Mar at Lock & Dam 14, Mississippi R Scott (JF) and a juvenile on 6 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD-ph) were the only reports.

Least Tern: All: 1 on 14 May at Saylorville Res Polk (DTh), 1 on 25 May in Spencer Clay (LAS), and 1 on 27 May at Willow Sl Mills (KDY).

Caspian Tern: First: 1 on 21 Apr at Saylorville Res Polk (JB). Migration peaked on 13 May with up to 166 at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD, JG). The last 2 birds were seen 24 May at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC).

Black Tern: First: 16 on 9 May at Rapp P Page (KDY). Peak was 291 on 15 May in Ida (SJD) and last 2 on 26 May at Thorpe P Winnebago (JB).

Common Tern: Reported in 10 counties this spring with the first on 5 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB) with high counts of 100 on 10 May at Pleasant Creek RA Linn (JF), 84 on 13 May at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD), and 28 on 9 May at Saylorville Res Polk (SJD). Last: 20 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF).

Forster's Tern: First was reported 16 Apr at Ada Hayden P Story (SJD). Reported in an additional 10 counties with the most of 62 on 10 May at Clear L Cerro Gordo (RGo) and the last on 24 May at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reported in Humboldt, Jefferson, Cerro Gordo, Webster, Dickinson, and Palo Alto this spring (JN, ABL, DCP, CJF, MHB).

White-winged Dove: A single bird returned to Keith Dyche's residence in Shenandoah Page on 10 May. Another bird

was observed 24 May in Dallas Center Dallas (JB).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: All: 1 on 9 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (CRE), 1 on 16 May at Manti P Fremont (KDY), 6 on 20 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP Van Buren (RLC), 1 on 21 May at Centerville Res Appanoose (RLC), and 1 on 24 May at Waterworks P Polk (JB).

Black-billed Cuckoo: All: 1 on 19 May at Grammar Grove Marshall (MP), 1 on 25 May at Badger Creek RA Madison (JG), 1 on 25 May in the Saylor Township Polk (AB), 1 on 25 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB), 1 on 26 May in Shenandoah Page (KDY), and 1 on 31 May at Pine Lake SP Hardin (MP).

Barn Owl: Only report was a single bird at Haynie Sl Mills on 8 Mar (KDY).

Eastern Screech-owl: All: 1 on 8 Mar in Radcliffe Hardin (MP), 2 on 28 Mar at Badger Creek RA Madison (DTh), and 1 on 6 Apr and 8 May near Fairfield Jefferson (DCP).

Great Horned Owl: Only 2 records on 7 May at Bays Branch WA Guthrie (DTh) and on 11 May at Sharon Bluffs SP Appanoose (RLC).

Barred Owl: All: 1 on 23 Mar at Sweet M Bremer (PET), 2 on 4 May at Sweet M Bremer (JB), 1 on 4 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center Linn (PET), and 2 on 18 May in Cedar Rapids Linn (WWH).

Long-eared Owl: A probable nesting record was reported 24 Mar at Lake Manawa Pottawattamie (Karen Marx). All other records include 2 on 8 Mar at Haynie Sl Mills (KDY), 2 on 23 Mar at Elk Rock SP Marion (JS), and 1 on 3 Apr at Haynie Sl Mills (KDY).

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 2 Mar at Coulter M Franklin (SJD), 1 on 3 Mar at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD), 1 on 12 Mar at Neal Smith NWR Jasper (KVS), 1 on 19 Mar near Chelsea Tama (DCH), 1 on 28 Mar at



Common Nighthawk, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 5 May 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

Green Island WA *Jackson* (CLW), 3 on 3 Apr at Haynie Sl Mills (KDy), and 1 on 13 Apr at Carney M Polk (MHB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: 2 on 2 Mar at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDy), 1 on 17 Mar in *Dallas* (SJD), 1 on 17 Mar at Saylorville WA *Dallas* (SJD), 1 on 19 Mar in *Boone* (SJD), and 1 on 23 Mar at Elk Rock SP *Marion* (JS).

Common Nighthawk: The first bird was seen 9 May over Aaron Brees' yard *Polk* (AB); 1-2 birds were seen in 4 additional counties with the peak of 60 on 21 May in *Spillville Winneshiek* (LR).

Chuck-will's-widow: No reports.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: As many as 4 were seen or heard in 8 counties with the first on 27 Apr in *Boone* (SJD).

Chimney Swift: First: 6 on 14 Apr over Keith Dyche's yard in Shenandoah *Page* (KDy). Peak was 200 on 11 May at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (JJJ).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: The first was seen 6 May near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP); 1-2 were reported in 4 additional counties.

Belted Kingfisher: All: 1 on 14 Mar at

Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB), 1 on 21 Mar at the Upper Mississippi River NWFR *Allamakee* (BR), 1 on 14 Apr in Humboldt *Humboldt* (AB), and 1 on 4 May at Sweet M *Bremer* (TMH).

Red-headed Woodpecker: First on 1 Mar at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh) was probably an over-wintering bird. No large migration pushes were noted, perhaps a further indication of this species' decline in much of the state.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Reported in 9 counties with the first on 10 Mar in Indianola *Warren* (JS). The most was 8 on 10 Apr in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK) and the last was a pair on 30 May at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV).

Hairy Woodpecker: All: 1 on 3 Mar at Dudgeon L *Benton* (PET), up to 3 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WWH, TMH), and 3 on 11 May at Faulkes' Heritage Woods *Linn* (WWH).

Northern Flicker: Peak of 40 was reported 21 Apr at Bank Swallow Bend *Warren* (JS).

Pileated Woodpecker: One or two reported in 9 counties with the first on 3 Mar at Dudgeon L *Benton* (PET) and the last on 24 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (CRE).

American Kestrel: The first was reported 3 Mar in *Benton* (PET) and the last reported 21 May at Centerville Res *Appanoose* (RLC). A pair was observed occupying a nest box 16 Mar in *Dallas* (KG).

Merlin: The first reported for spring was a prairie (*richardsonii*) subspecies on 13 Mar in *Hamilton* (SJD). Birds were reported from an additional 7 counties, mostly the Taiga (*columbarius*) subspecies, with the last on 14 May at Smith WA *Kossuth* (MCK).

Peregrine Falcon: Singles were reported in 12 counties with the first on 25

Mar in Des Moines *Polk* (JB) and the last on 13 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD).

Prairie Falcon: A single bird was reported 15 Mar in Ames *Story* (SJD, details).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: The first migrant appeared right on schedule at River Valley P *Story* on 10 May (RIA/PHA). The last were seen 28 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and at Bacon Creek P *Woodbury* (GLV).

Eastern Wood-pewee: The first 2 birds observed 28 Apr at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDY) constitutes the third-earliest record for Iowa.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: First report was 1 on 18 May at Idlewild County P *Floyd* (PH), the peak was 6 on 25 May at Pammel SP *Madison* (JG), and the last was 1 on 30 May at Hamlin Garland WA *Mitchell* (PH).

Acadian Flycatcher: First 2 birds seen 14 May at Beam Woods *Jones* (CRE). From 1-3 were seen in 6 other counties.

Alder Flycatcher: First on 15 May at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDY) and peak of 15 on 25 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). Last on 31 May in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Willow Flycatcher: All: 1 on 13 May at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (SJD), 1 on 18 May at Brenton Arboretum *Dallas* (JB), 1 on 26 May at Lake George P *Mills* (KDY), and 1 on 28 May in Ogden *Boone* (DCH).

Least Flycatcher: First on 30 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB). The peak of 60 on 17 May at Riverview Cemetery in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK) was an unusually high count for this species. Last was on 31 May in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Eastern Phoebe: First on 16 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh). Peak was 9 on 14 Apr in *Mitchell* (PH).

SAY'S PHOEBE: Two birds were reported this spring: 1 on 4 May at Sweet M *Bremer* was viewed by many attending the

spring meeting in Cedar Falls (*JG-ph, *JB, KVS, TMH, RIA/PHA, m. ob.) and 1 on 9 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (*WO).

Great Crested Flycatcher: First on 30 Apr at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG). Peak of 8 was the last report of the season on 22 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC).

Western Kingbird: Seven reports west of a line from *Hancock* to *Polk*. First on 22 Apr at Errington M *Polk* and last on 26 May at Crystal Hills WA *Hancock* (JB). A small group of 3 migrants was observed in Council Bluffs *Pottawattamie* on 11 May (JJD).

Eastern Kingbird: First on 25 Apr in Centerville *Appanoose* (RLC).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: One was reported 23 May at Geode SP *Henry* (JWR). There was some discussion about the age of this bird, but given the date it was observed relative to breeding dates within its normal range, it is likely that this bird was an adult female.

Loggerhead Shrike: The northernmost reports occurred 3 Mar at Dudgeon L *Benton* (PET) and 7 Apr in *Franklin* (SJD). One or two birds were seen in 10 additional counties.

Northern Shrike: First on 1 Mar at Hallett's Quarry *Polk* and was also heard singing and calling on 16 Mar (JG). Singles were reported in 8 additional counties with the last on 13 Apr at Morse L WPA *Wright* (SJD), a record late date for this species by one week.

White-eyed Vireo: First on 1 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF *Lee* (JWR) was rather late for this species. Others reported in *Appanoose*, *Davis*, *Jones*, *Warren*, and *Johnson* (RLC, POR, CRE, JS).

Bell's Vireo: All: 1 on 14 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 3 on 14 May near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 2 on 15 May at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC), 2 on 19 May



Loggerhead Shrike, Howard, 24 May 2013.
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Northern Shrike, Hamilton, 16 March 2013.
Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

at Haysville Bend WA *Keokuk* (BSc), and 1 on 27 May in Ames *Story* (WO).

Yellow-throated Vireo: First were on 29 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB) and 1 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Blue-headed Vireo: Early arrivals appeared 29 Apr in *Page* (KDy) and 30 Apr at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE). Last was on 19 May in Baxter *Jasper* (WWH).

Warbling Vireo: First birds arrived on schedule at Waterworks P *Polk* on 29 Apr (JB). Up to 3 were reported in 8 additional counties with the peak of 12 on 22 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP *Van Buren* (RLC).

Philadelphia Vireo: First on 10 May in *Story* (WO) with a peak of 7 on 14 May at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (RIA/PHA). Final migrants on 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS).

Red-eyed Vireo: First on 11 May at Sharon Bluffs SP *Appanoose* was a bit late for this species (RLC). Peak of 20 on 19 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE).

Horned Lark: All: 13 on 3 Mar in *Polk* (TMH) and 2 on 23 Mar at Sweet M *Bremer* (PET). Despite some snow cover into early May there were no large roadside concentrations of this species.

Purple Martin: First migrants appeared 29 Mar at Rapp P *Page* (KDy) with reports from 4 additional counties. The peak was 12 on 21 May at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Tree Swallow: First arrived 29 Mar at Rapp P *Page* (KDy). Peak of 26 reported 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* with the last on 19 May in Baxter *Jasper* (WWH).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: All: 1 on 3 Apr at Coralville Dam *Johnson* (BSc, details; 2nd earliest), 1 on 10 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB), 3 on 14 Apr at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 7 on 4 May at Greenbelt L *Black Hawk* (TMH).

Bank Swallow: First migrants arrived 26 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) with a peak of 250 on 11 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB). A nice total of 48 birds was observed at a nesting colony near West Okoboji L *Dickinson* on 16 May (MHB).

Cliff Swallow: First on 18 Apr at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB).

Barn Swallow: First on 7 Apr at Errington M *Polk* (JB).

Black-capped Chickadee: All: 20 on 17 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (WWH)



Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Woodbury, 29 April 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Rock Wren, Boone, 12 May 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

and up to 40 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WWH, TMH).

Tufted Titmouse: All: 4 on 17 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (WWH), 5 on 6 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH), 1 on 6 May at Ledges SP *Boone* (TMH), 15 on 10 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH), and 6 on 21 May at Centerville Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Numerous reports this spring compared to previous years. One or two birds were reported in 13 counties with the last on 21 May in *Dickinson* (ET).

White-breasted Nuthatch: All: 1 on 18 Mar at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (WWH), up to 10 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (WWH, TMH), and 10 on 18 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH).

Brown Creeper: Reported in 6 counties with the last reports on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TMH) and 11 May at Brookside P *Story* (WO).

ROCK WREN: A single bird appeared 10 May in Joe Monahan's yard in

rural *Boone*. The bird was viewed by many through 18 May (RIA/PHA, *DCH, *SJD, *JG, m. ob.).

Carolina Wren: Northernmost record of this species was 3 May in *Algona Kossuth* (Sharon Arndorfer fide MCK). Last on 27 May in *Page* (KDy).

Bewick's Wren: Two birds were reported 1 May at a farmstead in *Decatur* (*POR).

House Wren: First on 22 Apr at Waterworks P *Polk* (JB). Peak of 30 on 5 May at Indian Creek Nature Center *Linn* (WWH).

Winter Wren: Reported in 14 counties this spring with the first on 1 Mar in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BSc) and at Springbrook SP *Guthrie* (DTh) and the last on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (JS).

Sedge Wren: Only 4 reports: 1 on 27 Apr at Coopers Creek WA *Fremont* (KDy), 8 on 5 May at Sweet M *Bremer* (JB), 1 on 9 May at Rapp P *Page* (KDy), and 1 on 30 May at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (DTh).

Marsh Wren: Only 3 reports: 1 on 13 Apr at Carney M *Polk* ties the second-



Hermit Thrush, Polk, 19 April 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



American Robin, Polk, 27 May 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.

earliest record (MHB), 2 on 4 May at Sweet M Bremer (JB), and 5 on 5 May in Cedar Rapids Linn (WWH).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: First on 29 Mar at Waterworks P Polk (JB) and 30 Mar at Smith WA Kossuth (MCK). All other reports were in April with the last on 21 Apr at Badger L Monona (GLV).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: First appeared with the Golden-crowned Kinglets on 30 Mar at Hanging Bog Linn (PET). Peak of 65 reported 4 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (WWH) with the last migrant on 21 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: First on 14 Apr along the Squire Point Trail, Coralville L Johnson (LGR) and 22 Apr at Waterworks P Polk (JB).

Eastern Bluebird: First reported 2 Mar in O'Brien (LAS) with a peak of 13 on 14 Apr in Mitchell (PH).

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD: A single bird appeared at Maffitt Res Polk on 9 Mar (*JG-ph, *JB, *AB-ph). The bird also visited Warren (AB) and was viewed by many through 10 Mar (m.ob.).

Townsend's solitaire: The last 2 birds

were seen 2 Mar at the usual location in O'Brien (LAS).

Veery: First migrant appeared 1 May at Parker's Woods Cerro Gordo, which ties the 3rd-earliest record (RGo). Peak of 5 was reported 17 May in Mitchell with last birds seen 27 May at Pilot Knob SP Winnebago (JB) and Ambrose A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: All migrants were reported in May with the first on 1 May at Parker's Woods Cerro Gordo (RGo) and the last on 27 May at Pilot Knob SP Winnebago (JB).

Swainson's Thrush: First on 3 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (JB). Peak was 64 nocturnal migrants on 27 May in Grimes Polk (JB) with the last nocturnal migrant on 31 May in Algona Kossuth (MCK).

Hermit Thrush: Migrants reported in 12 counties with the first on 2 Mar at Pierce Creek Page (KDY) and the last on 12 May at Greenbelt L Black Hawk (TSS).

Wood Thrush: First on 1 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (BSc) and last on 22 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP Van Buren (RLC).

American Robin: Peak of 176 on 10 Apr at Rathbun Res Appanoose (RLC).



*Ovenbird, Cairo Woods, Louisa, 12 May 2013.
Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*

Varied Thrush: All: 1 on 3 Apr in Algona Kossuth (Carole and Earl Ludwig fide MCK) and 1 from 16-23 Apr in Des Moines Polk (BJM).

Gray Catbird: First on 27 Apr near Fairfield Jefferson was a bit late for this species. Peak of 14 seen on 21 May at Centerville Res Appanoose (RLC).

Brown Thrasher: First on 6 Apr at Riverton WA Fremont (KDy) and last on 6 May at Ledges SP Boone (TMH).

Northern Mockingbird: Found in 8 counties across southern Iowa with the northernmost records on 11 May at Bjorkboda M Hamilton (DCH) and 15 May in Boone (Jeffrey Barnes-ph fide TMH).

American Pipit: First migrants appeared 18 Mar at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JF). A peak of 220 was seen on 5 May in Grundy (JG) and the last were seen 16 May at Neal Smith NWR (KVS).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT: A single bird was found 22 Apr at Errington M Polk (*JG-ph, m.ob.).

Cedar Waxwing: All: 100 on 10 Mar

at Big Creek SP Polk (SJD), 6 on 18 May in Humboldt Humboldt (ABL), and 28 on 21 May at Centerville Res Appanoose (RLC).

Lapland Longspur: First report of 2000 on 20 Mar in Ogden Boone (DCH) and peak of 3000 on 20 Apr at Dunbar Sl Greene (SJD). Last bird was seen 7 May in Kossuth (MCK).

Smith's Longspur: First on 7 Apr at Harrier M Boone (TMH). Flocks of 26-40 were reported mostly in central Iowa (SJD, DTh, AB, JG) with the last report of 31 on 6 May at Dunbar Sl Greene (SJD).

Snow Bunting: All: 6 on 2 Mar in O'Brien (SJD), 35 on 6 Mar in Grundy (MP), 20 on 24 Mar at Cardinal M Winneshiek (LR), and 1 lingering bird on 31 Mar in Winnebago (Andrew Furman-ph fide SJD).

Ovenbird: First on 1 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE) with peak of 22 on 14 May in Davis (RLC).

Worm-eating Warbler: All: 1 on 13, 15 May at Stone SP Woodbury (TJL, POR).

Louisiana Waterthrush: First on 3 Apr at Lacey-Keosauqua SP Van Buren (JWR). All other reports were south of Guthrie.

Northern Waterthrush: First arrived 26 Apr at Muskrat Sl Jones (CRE). Eight were seen in a migrant flock on 11 May at Union Slough NWR Kossuth (MCK). Last: 1 on 17 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

Golden-winged Warbler: First: Singles on 1 May at Lacey-Keosauqua SP Van Buren (JWR) and 5 May at Indian Creek Nature Center Linn (WWH). The last migrant was seen on 19 May at Manly Worth (Brooke Webb fide SJD-ph).

Blue-winged Warbler: All: 1 on 1 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE), 1 on 9 May at Smith WA Kossuth (MCK), 4 on 18 May at the Croton Unit of Shimek SF Lee (KVS), and 3 on 19 May at the Donnellson Unit of Shimek SF Lee (KVS).

Black-and-white Warbler: First on 29 Apr in *Page* (KDy). Most other reports were from eastern Iowa with the last report on 21 May at Centerville Res *Appanoose* (RLC).

Prothonotary Warbler: Reported in 4 counties with the first on 3 May at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC). Up to 3 birds were observed 8-10 May at Brenton Sl *Dallas* (SJD, RIA/PHA, JB, DTh), a nice record for central Iowa.

Tennessee Warbler: First migrants appeared 1 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BSc) and at Gray's Lake P *Polk* (JB). The trees were dripping with this species on many occasions this spring with 30 on 14-16 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE), 59 on 18 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (AB), and 31 on 27 May at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK). The last singers were reported 28 May in *Algona Kossuth* (MCK).

Orange-crowned Warbler: First on 28 Apr along the Summerset Bike Path *Warren* (JS) and last on 27 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Nashville Warbler: First birds on 30 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE), and Waterworks P *Polk* (JB). A peak of 30 was reported 13 May at Grammar Grove WA *Marshall* (CRE) and the last was seen 21 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Connecticut Warbler: Reported in 6 counties in late May with the first on 17 May along the Cedar R *Mitchell* (PH) and the last on 28 May at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Mourning Warbler: First: up to 4 from 16-19 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and 1 on 19 May near Chelsea *Tama* (BT). The westernmost report included up to 3 birds 23-25 May at Manti P *Fremont* (KDy). The last birds were seen 28 May at Squaw Creek P *Linn* (JF).

Kentucky Warbler: Reported in 5

counties with the first and westernmost report on 13 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL).

Common Yellowthroat: First migrants appeared 27 Apr at Jensen M *Madison* (JG) and at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Several reports followed in May with the last on 27 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC).

Hooded Warbler: All: 1 on 1 May at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (JWR), 1 on 10 May in *Guthrie* (SJD), 1 on 11 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (SJD), and 1 on 24 May at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (CRE).

American Redstart: First on 1 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (BSc) and 2 May in Des Moines *Polk* (AB). A high count of 97 was reported 17 May in *Winneschiek* (LR).

Cape May Warbler: One or two reported in 9 counties from 9 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* to 26 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS).

Cerulean Warbler: First: 1 on 12 May at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (MHB) and 1 on 14 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (JG).

Northern Parula: First on 27 Apr in *Fremont* (KDy). The westernmost record of this species was 13 May at Stone SP *Woodbury* (TJL).

Magnolia Warbler: This regular migrant first appeared 9 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE). Peak count of 12 occurred 16 May at Centerville Res *Appanoose* (RLC) and a lingering migrant was seen 27 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS).

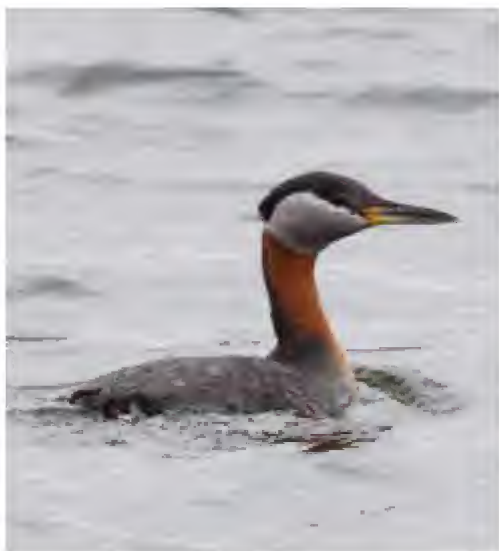
Bay-breasted Warbler: Reported in 6 counties with the first on 1 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and last on 24 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center *Linn* (BSc).

Blackburnian Warbler: This vibrant migrant first appeared 8 May at Ambrose A. Call SP *Kossuth* (MCK). The 6 reported 23 May in *Mitchell* were a pleasant surprise (POR). The last was seen 27 May at Pilot Knob SP *Hancock* (JB).

Yellow Warbler: First: 1 on 27 Apr at



Blue-winged Teal, Harrier M, Boone, 25 April 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

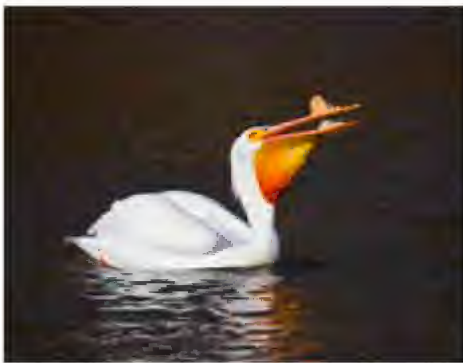


Red-necked Grebe, George Wyth SP, Black Hawk, 4 May 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.



White-faced Ibis, Iowa, 25 April 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

*Bald Eagles, Warren,
8 March 2013. Photo-
graph by Billy Reiter-
Marolf, Granger, IA.*



*American White Pelican, below Coralville Res
dam, Johnson, 15 April 2013. Photograph by
Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*



*Piping Plover, Saylorville Res, Polk, 3 May
2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore,
Ames, IA.*



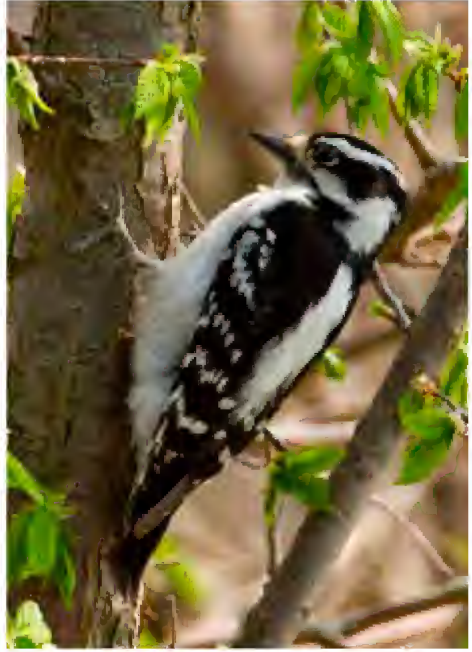
*Hudsonian Godwit, Dallas, 14 May 2013. Pho-
tograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.*



*Wilson's Phalarope, Hawkeye WA, Johnson,
24 April 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib,
Iowa City, IA.*



Barred Owl, Polk, 16 April 2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.



Downy Woodpecker, Decatur, 1 May 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Scarlet Tanager, Ryerson's Woods, Johnson, 11 May 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Cerulean Warbler, Cairo Woods, Louisa, 12 May 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 9 May 2013. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Orchard Oriole, Iowa Arboretum, Boone, 9 May 2013. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Purple Finch, Boone, 16 March 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.



American Goldfinch, Page, 13 May 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.



Yellow-breasted Chat, Cairo Woods, Louisa, 12 May 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, Jester P, Polk, 7 May 2013. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.

Jensen M Madison (JG). Peak of 22 observed 17 May in Winneshiek (LR).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: The first 3 were on 9 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (CRE). Last on 27 May in Ames Story (WO), at Ambrose A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK), at Pilot Knob SP Hancock (JB), and in Des Moines Polk (KVS).

Blackpoll Warbler: First migrants arrived 8 May at Manti P Fremont (KDy) with a peak of 12 on 18 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB). 2 lingering migrants were singing on 27 May at Ambrose A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: All: 1 on 10 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (DGE) and 1 on 14 May in Butler (KRB-ph).

Palm Warbler: First on 27 Apr at Lake Ahquabi SP Warren (JS) with the peak of 9 on 11 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB). Last on 20 May in Humboldt Humboldt (ABl) and at Hamlin Garland WA Mitchell (PH).

Pine Warbler: First observed from

24-27 Apr at Fairmount Cemetery Scott (WMZ). Remainder of reports occurred in May with the last on 24 May at Farmington Unit Van Buren, a usual location for this species (CRE).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: First on 1 Mar at Saylorville Res Polk (DTh). Peak counts of 60 on 8 May at Ambrose A. Call SP Kossuth (MCK) and 58 on 12 May at Saylorville Res Polk (AB). Last: 1 on 25 May at Ada Hayden P Story (WO). A possible Audubon's subspecies was reported 11 May at Oak Grove, Saylorville Res Polk (DTh, m. ob.).

Yellow-throated Warbler: First migrant arrived 16 Apr at Waterworks P Polk (JB, AB). Singles were reported in 7 additional counties with the last report on 28 May at the Forest City Settling Pond Winnebago, an uncommon visitor at this location (RGo).

Black-throated Green Warbler: All reports in May with the first on 4 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (TMH) and 5



Lark Sparrow, McBride Timber, Madison, 29 May 2013. Photograph by Reid Allen, West Des Moines, IA.



Clay-colored Sparrow, Boone, 3 May 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (WWH) and the last on 26 May at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDy).

Canada Warbler: First migrants appeared in eastern Iowa on 16 May at Hickory Hill P *Johnson* (CRE) and 17 May in *Wineshiek* (LR). Westernmost report occurred 24 May at Manti P *Fremont* (KDy) and last on 27 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Wilson's Warbler: First on 9 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE), peak of 12 on 25 May at Cottonwood RA, Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC) and on 26 May at Cherry Glen Access, Saylorville Res *Polk* (KVS), and last on 28 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Yellow-breasted Chat: All: 2 on 12 May at Cairo Woods *Louisa* (MHB), 3 on 18 May at Croton Unit *Lee* (KVS), 1 on 19 May at Donnellson Unit *Lee* (KVS), and 4 on 24 May at Croton Unit *Lee* (CRE).

Spotted Towhee: Only report: a female on 3 May at Larry Dau's feeders *Boone* (LGD-ph).

Eastern Towhee: First migrants on 4 Apr in Burlington *Des Moines* and on 6 Apr at Pierce Creek *Page* (KDy).

American Tree Sparrow: Last overwintering birds were seen on 5 May at

Sweet M *Bremer* (JB-ph) and 7 May in Ames *Story* (WO).

Chipping Sparrow: Migrants arrived on schedule with the first on 6 Apr in Ann Johnson's yard *Warren* (AMJ). Peak counts of 300 on 1 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (DTh) and 275 on 4 May in *Polk* (BE).

Clay-colored Sparrow: First on 27 Apr in *Fremont* (KDy) and 29 Apr in Ann Johnson's yard *Warren* (AMJ). This species was more abundant this spring than previous years with a peak count of 19 on 3 May at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD). The last migrants pushed through Iowa on 18 May at the Reis Farm *Howard* (LR).

Field Sparrow: First: 1 on 30 Mar in *Louisa* (CRE).

Vesper Sparrow: First birds arrived 30 Mar at Voas Nature Center *Dallas* (DTh), in Forest City *Winnebago* (JB), and in *Louisa* (CRE).

Lark Sparrow: First: 2 on 14 Apr at Rapp P *Page* (KDy). Most: 18 on 1 May at Malvern City P *Mills* (KDy). Last: 2 on 21 May in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo).

Savannah Sparrow: Reported in 5 counties with the first on 14 Mar at River-ton WA *Fremont* (KDy).



*Lincoln's Sparrow, Boone, 29 April 2013.
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



Fox Sparrow, Anderson L, Hamilton, 19 April 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Reported in 6 counties with the first on 29 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS).

Henslow's Sparrow: All: 2 on 28 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS), 1 on 4 May at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE), 1 on 6 May near Fairfield *Jefferson* (DCP), 1 on 10 May at Red Feather Prairie *Polk* (DTh), 2 on 13 May at Pleasant Creek RA *Linn* (BSc), and 2 on 17 May at Lake Sugema *Van Buren* (KVS).

Le Conte's Sparrow: First migrant appeared 15 Apr at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO) and the last were seen 13 May at Sedan Bottoms *Appanoose* (RLC).

Nelson's Sparrow: No reports.

Fox Sparrow: First: 1 on 1 Mar at Big Creek SP *Polk* (DTh). Most: 17 on 11 Apr at Neal Smith NWR *Jasper* (KVS). Last: 1 on 2 May at Anderson L *Hamilton* (SJD).

Song Sparrow: First birds moved into Iowa on 1 Mar at Big Creek SP *Polk* (DTh) and 2 Mar at Lake Sugema *Van Buren* (RLC). 16 on 7 Apr at Harrier M *Boone* was the peak count (TMH).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Reported in 6 counties in southern and central Iowa with the first on 25 Apr in Grimes *Polk* (JB). Last

migrant was seen 27 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Swamp Sparrow: First birds of spring were seen 13 Mar at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO). Up to 4 were reported in 5 additional counties.

White-throated Sparrow: This common spring migrant first arrived 3 Mar at Maffitt Res *Polk* (JB). High counts were 165 on 5 May in Steve Dinsmore's yard *Story* (SJD) and 55 on 9 May along the Cedar R *Mitchell* (PH). Last birds were seen 15 May at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

Harris's Sparrow: This species was numerous this spring with the first report from 1-28 Mar in Doug Harr's yard *Boone* (DCH). A surprisingly large group of 60 were at Lake Pahoja *Lyon* on 16 May (SJD) and the last bird was seen on 17 May at Elinor Bedell SP *Dickinson* (MHB).

White-crowned Sparrow: First migrants on 4 Mar in Iowa City *Johnson* (MHB) and last on 14 May in Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Dark-eyed Junco: The last winter bird left 5 May from Algona *Kossuth* (MCK).

Summer Tanager: First: 1 on 27 Apr at Walnut Woods SP *Polk* (JG). West-



Indigo Bunting, Boone, 15 May 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

ernmost records included 1 on 13 May at Stone SP Woodbury (TJL) and 2 on 23 May at Manti P Fremont (KDy).

Scarlet Tanager: Slightly later than Summer Tanagers with the first on 1 May at Hickory Hill P Johnson (CRE). Most reports from central or eastern Iowa with the westernmost report on 17 May at Elinor Bedell SP Dickinson (MHB).

WESTERN TANAGER: Two reports this spring: 1 visiting feeders in Mason City Cerro Gordo was reported 9-11 May (RG, *JG-ph) and 1 visiting Lee Schoenewe's Spencer backyard Clay on 12 May (*LAS).

Northern Cardinal: Only 2 reports: 2 on 4 May at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (TMH) and 20 on 21 May at Centerville Res Appanoose (RLC).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: First on 26 Apr in Warren (AMJ). A big push of migrants around mid-May with 12 on 6 May at Centerville Res Appanoose (RLC) and 10 on 9 May at Hawkeye WA Johnson (CRE).

LAZULI BUNTING: Singles on 10 May in Carroll, Carroll (*Wes Thelen-ph) and on 18 May in the Morrison's backyard O'Brien (*Bruce Morrison).

Indigo Bunting: Reported in 5 counties with the first on 9 May in Cedar Rapids Linn (BT).

PAINTED BUNTING: A single bird visited Keith Dyché's yard in Shenandoah Page from 9-10 May (*KDy).

Dickcissel: All: 2 on 7 May at Rapp P Page (KDy), 2 on 8 May at Neal Smith NWR Jasper (KVS), 1 on 9 May in Marshall (MP), 1 on 10 May in Jones (CRE), and 2 on 19 May at Oak Grove Access, Saylorville Res Polk (JB).

Bobolink: First on 1 May in Homestead Iowa (BSc) and peak of 19 on 18 May at the Reis Farm Howard (LR).

Eastern Meadowlark: Reported in 10 counties mostly in eastern Iowa with the westernmost report on 11 May at Prairie Heritage Center O'Brien (LAS).

Western Meadowlark: All: 1 on 3 Apr at Sedan Bottoms Appanoose (RLC) and 1 on 1 May in Scott (WMZ). There is some evidence that this species has declined in Iowa, especially in the eastern part of the state.

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Reported in 6 counties with the first on 3 Apr at Rapp P Page (KDy).

Rusty Blackbird: First migrants arrived 16 Mar at Saylorville Res Polk (AB) with a big push of 90 on 23 Mar at Banner WA Warren (JG). Other high counts included 88 on 18 Apr in Greene (SJD), 85 on 13 Apr in Humboldt (SJD), and 81 on 7 Apr in Wright (SJD). Last migrant left Ada Hayden P Story on 23 Apr (WO).

Brewer's Blackbird: First migrants appeared in large numbers with 72 on 24 Mar in Kuehn Dallas (JCe) and 40 on 31 Mar in Boone (SJD). Up to 8 were reported in 9 additional counties into early May with the last on 4 May at Sweet M Bremer (KVS).

Common Grackle: All: 2 on 15 Mar at Neal Smith NWR Jasper (KVS), 2 on 18 Mar in Ottosen Humboldt (JN), 14 on 29 Mar in Story (TMH), 5 on 20 Apr in Baxter Jasper (WWH), and 10 on 20 Apr in Marshall (WWH).



Baltimore Oriole, Ogden, Boone, 10 May 2013. Photograph by Doug Harr, Ogden, IA.



Orchard Oriole, Iowa City, Johnson, 5 May 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.

Great-tailed Grackle: First on 14 Mar a Rapp P *Page* (KDY). Up to 6 were reported in 10 additional counties with the northernmost report on 11 May at Dan Greene *Sl Clay* (LAS).

Brown-headed Cowbird: Only 4 reports: 1 on 18 Mar in Grimes *Polk* (JB), 2 on 28 Mar at Maffitt Res *Polk* (DTh), 3 on 30 Mar in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BT), and 6 on 4 May at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (TMH).

Orchard Oriole: First on 2 May in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (BT). Northernmost reports on 15 May at McFarland P *Story* (HZ) and on 16 May in *Boone* (LGD).

Baltimore Oriole: First on 27 Apr in *Fremont* (KDY). Reported in 7 additional counties with the peak of 5 on 21 May in *Ottosen Humboldt* (JN).

Purple Finch: Reports more numerous this spring than previous years with the last bird observed at Denny Thompson's feeders in Johnston *Polk* on 27 May, the second-latest record of this species in Iowa (DTh).

Red Crossbill: This winter was particularly good for finches and this trend spilled into the spring season with 4 reports of this species: 3 on 24 Apr at Jim and Char Menzel's feeders *Boone* (LGD), 4 on 3 May

in *Boone* (Jim Menzel-ph fide SJD), 4 on 10 May in *Cherokee Cherokee* (DB), and 2 on 30 May in *Cherokee Cherokee* (DB).

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL: Similar to Red Crossbills, 5 reports from spring: 1 on 13 Mar at the Garner Cemetery *Hancock* (SJD), 2 on 15 Mar at the Garner Cemetery *Hancock* (JB), 5 on 17 Mar in Cedar Rapids *Linn* (JF), 1 on 6 Apr in Keith Dyche's yard in Shenandoah *Page* (KDY), and 3 on 16 Apr in Aspen Grove Cemetery *Des Moines* (JWR).

Common Redpoll: Reports were more numerous this spring than previous years. Reported in 21 counties. Peak counts included 140 on 10 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 100 on 13 Mar in *Wright* (SJD), and 67 on 4 Mar in *Spencer Clay* (LAS). Last were reported 23 Apr in *Algona Kos-suth* (MCK).

HOARY REDPOLL: Three reports: 1 on 10 Mar at Saylorville Res *Polk* (*SJD), 1 on 13 Mar in *Wright* (*SJD), and 1 on 21 Mar in *Howard* (*SJD).

Pine Siskin: Numerous reports this spring with the last on 28 May in *Cerro Gordo* (CJF).

American Goldfinch: Only 5 reports, including 30 on 5 May at Indian Creek

Nature Center Linn (WWH) and 35 on 12 May at Wickiup Hill Learning Center Linn (WWH).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Six reports from eastern Iowa with a peak of 10 on 11 May at Sand L Johnson (MHB).

COMMENT

This report was my first as spring field reports editor and I was pleasantly surprised by the number of contributions received by birders from around the state. Without these contributions this report would not be possible, and I appreciate the time and effort all of you put forth to ensure a quality report and continue the study of bird trends in Iowa.

CONTRIBUTORS

Reid/Pam Allen	RIA/PHA	W Des Moines	Tucker Lutter	TLu	Bronson
Kelly Barnett	KRB	Des Moines	Karen Marx	KM	Omaha, NE
Matthew Baumann	MBa	Cedar Falls	John McCecil	JCe	Des Moines
Ellen Bell	EMB	Ridgeway	Barbara Miller	BJM	Des Moines
Dick Bierman	DB	Cherokee	Jeff Miller	JM	Solon
John Bissell	JB	Grimes	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
April Blair	ABl	Humboldt	Bob Norris	BN	Des Moines
Aaron Brees	AB	Des Moines	Wolfgang Oesterreich	WO	Ames
Mark Brown	MHB	Iowa City	Diane Porter	DCP	Fairfield
Dennis Carter	DC	Decorah	Mark Proescholdt	MPr	Liscomb
Robert Cecil	RIC	Des Moines	Larry Reis	LR	Calmar
Raymond Cummins	RLC	Centerville	Billy Reiter-Marolf	BR	Granger
Larry Dau	LGD	Boone	Paul Roisen	POR	Sioux City
Kathie Davis	KD	Iowa City	Linda Rudolph	LGR	Coralville
James Dinsmore	JJD	The Villages, FL	John Rutenbeck	JWR	Burlington
Stephen Dinsmore	SJD	Ames	William Scheible	BSc	Cedar Rapids
Keith Dyche	KDy	Shenandoah	Tom Schilke	TSS	Waterloo
David Eastman	DGE	Cedar Falls	Lee Schoenewe	LAS	Spencer
Chris Edwards	CRE	North Liberty	Lois Shimon	LS	Rolfe
Bery Engebretsen	BE	Des Moines	Jim Sinclair	JS	Indianola
Carolyn Fischer	CJF	Mason City	Daniel Stark	DJS	Ames
James Forde	JF	Cedar Rapids	Ed Thelen	ETh	Spirit Lake
James L Fuller	JLF	Iowa City	Marty Thelen	MT	Carroll
Kevin Gerety	KG	Yale	Dennis Thompson	DTh	Johnston
Jacob Gilliam	JG	Norwalk	Bill Tollefson	BT	Cedar Rapids
Rita Goranson	RGo	Mason City	Ellen Tushar	PET	Vinton
Tyler Harms	TMH	Ames	Karen Viste-Sparkman	KVS	Des Moines
Douglas Harr	DCH	Ogden	Gerald Von Ehwegen	GLV	Sioux City
Paul Hertzell	PH	Mason City	Walt Wagner-Hecht	WWH	Cedar Rapids
Ann Johnson	AMJ	Norwalk	Andrew Williams	AHW	Ames
Dottie Johnson	DJ	W Des Moines	Charles Winterwood	CLW	Dubuque
Matthew Kenne	MCK	Algona	Hank Zaletel	HZ	Nevada
Edward Kuhrt	ELK	Iowa City	Walter Zuurdeeg	WMZ	Davenport

1517 Stafford Avenue, Ames, Iowa, 50010 (tyharms@gmail.com)

Report of the Records Committee for 2012

Ann M. Johnson

For the first year since 2000, no new species were added to the Iowa checklist in 2012 although there were some fine discoveries. One new species was added to the list of breeders in Iowa when Neotropic Cormorant was found nesting on an island in the Mississippi River (Dinsmore et al. 2012). Although not confirmed as nesting, breeding behavior was also observed for this species at Forney Lake in southwestern Iowa. The rapid range expansion of this southern species has been fascinating to follow.

A total of 57 reports were reviewed during the year including one from a previous year. Many other documentations were reviewed by the seasonal field reports editors for supporting evidence of reported observations. The committee thanks everyone for timely submission of reports so that our publications offer the most current information available. Appreciation is also extended to all who enter their reports on-line. This is creating an extensive database of rarity reports that should be helpful to researchers.

Committee members for 2012 with years in which their terms expire were: Rita Goranson (2012), Ross Silcock (2013), Chris Edwards (2014), Aaron Brees (2015), Matthew Keene (2016), Jay Gilliam (2017) and Ann Johnson (secretary, appointed by the committee). Paul Hertzell was nominated by the committee and subsequently appointed by the Board of Directors to fill a regular term beginning in 2013 to replace Rita Goranson whose term expired at the end of the year.

Status changes to the Iowa checklist are based on the number of reports during the previous ten years. The following status changes were approved at the annual committee meeting on 21 October 2012:

From Accidental to Casual – Painted Bunting. Although three annual records appear to be the same bird returning to Brookside Park in Ames, the total number of reports has increased in the last ten years.

From Casual to Accidental – Tricolored Heron and Gyrfalcon. Both of these species seem to be cyclical in appearance in the state and are probably more accurately described as accidental.

From Casual to Regular – Iceland Gull and Laughing Gull. Although both of these species now meet the threshold for regular occurrence, details and photos are still requested so that we continue to learn more about their distribution and identification.

Neotropic Cormorant was discussed because of the increase in reports from throughout the state as well as confirmed nesting. Because it can sometimes be a difficult ID, the committee felt that leaving it as casual and requesting continued documentations was most desirable. If the current pattern continues it will become regular soon.

Other business discussed at the 21 October meeting included the digitizing of all old records (pre-2000) so that the archives are available through the website. There was also considerable discussion about the initial stages of integrating Iowa's rare bird reports with similar reporting done through eBird. This project will be several years in the making.

Each record reviewed by the Records Committee is assigned a six-digit number (year and sequence number) which is included in this report for future reference. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = recording, -D = documentation) and NA = Not Accepted. In order to be accepted, a record must receive 7 votes on the initial review or 6 votes on a subsequent review. The subcategories A-S, A-P, and A-R indicate that physical evidence supports the identification, and records are sub-classified based on a majority vote. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports or a special note in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An * indicates a previously uncited documentation.

In the past, a separate photo file was maintained by the Records Committee. With the proliferation of digital images being submitted, as well as documentations having unique identification numbers, these photos are now being archived as a part of the documentation and are not assigned a separate number. The classification in the entries below will indicate the presence of an identifiable photo with the record.

A number of significant records that would add to our knowledge of Iowa birds are unfortunately missed each year. Good photos should at least have some minimal details entered to identify who, what, when and where. Oftentimes a snapshot or recording picked up on a smartphone may provide just enough corroboration for acceptance. Written documentations are more difficult to evaluate and, as a lower level of evidence, require more detail and logic to be accepted for use by future researchers. The committee relies on the observer to paint a picture with words of what was seen and how it was identified. This is seldom available from listserv posts or brief details submitted with seasonal field reports. A few documented details on size and structure, along with a description of what was seen and consideration of any similar species, can make all the difference between an accepted and not accepted report. The committee can only evaluate the evidence that is submitted. **The committee's purpose is not to pass judgment on the validity of a particular sighting or the birding skills of a reporter but rather on the evidence provided.**

2012 RECORDS ACCEPTED

Fulvous Whistling-Duck: 17-18 Jun at Forney L in *Fremont* (2012-27, A-P, IBL 82:151 [Silcock 2012]).

Mottled Duck: 28-29 Mar at Forney L in *Fremont* (2012-07, A-P, IBL 82:93 [Silcock 2012]) and 14 Apr at New L in *Woodbury* (2012-16, A-P, IBL 82:93).

Neotropic Cormorant: 1 Apr at Forney L in *Fremont* (2012-20, A-P, IBL 82:94); 9 Apr at Forney L in *Fremont* (2012-08, A-D, IBL 82:94); 26 Apr to 27 May at Saylorville Res in *Polk* (2012-13, A-P, IBL 82:94) and 21 Jul at New L in *Woodbury* (2012-30, A-P, IBL 82:153).

Glossy Ibis: 8 May at Crane Creek in

Black Hawk (2012-18, A-P, IBL 82:94) and 10-12 Apr at Nellen M in *Mills* (2012-21, A-P, IBL 82:94).

Roseate Spoonbill: 5-8 Sep at Saylorville Res in *Polk* (2012-33, A-P, IBL 83:10 [McCecil 2013]).

Swallow-tailed Kite: 25 Aug to 1 Sep at Otter Creek M in *Tama* (2012-32, A-P, IBL 83:10 [Akers 2013]).

Whooping Crane: 25 Nov at Sioux City in *Woodbury* (2012-48, A-D, IBL 83:12).

Curlew Sandpiper: 24-25 May at Hawkeye WA in *Johnson* (2012-12, A-P, IBL 82:99, 114 [Forde 2012]).

Laughing Gull: 23-25 Jun at Red Rock Res in *Marion* (2012-29, A-P, IBL 82:158).

Mew Gull: 8 Jan at Red Rock Res in Marion (2012-01, A-D, IBL 82:70).

California Gull: 31 May at Hawkeye WA in Johnson (2012-14, A-P, IBL 82:100) and 25 Jun at Red Rock Res in Marion (2012-28, A-P, IBL 82:158).

Iceland Gull: 29 Jan at Pool 19 in Lee (2012-03, A-D, IBL 82:70), 6 Feb at L&D 14 in Scott (2012-22, A-P, IBL 82:70) and 6 Feb at L&D 15 in Scott (2012-24, A-P, IBL 82:70).

Glaucous Gull: 20 Oct at Trumbull L in Clay (2012-56, A-D, IBL 83:15).

Great Black-backed Gull: 9 Jan at Fort Madison in Lee (2012-02, A-P, IBL 82:71), 26 to 31 Jan at L&D 14 in Scott (2012-19, A-P, IBL 82:71) and 9 to 11 Feb at L&D 14 in Scott (2012-23, A-P, IBL 82:62,71).

Arctic Tern: 22 Sep to 1 Oct at Saylorville Res in Polk (2012-36, A-P, IBL 83:15).

Burrowing Owl: 24-25 Mar near Webster City in Hamilton (2012-17, A-D, IBL 82:101).

Rufous Hummingbird: early Oct to 16 Nov at Davenport in Scott (2012-45, A-P, IBL 83:16 [Dinsmore and Murphy 2013]).

Gyr Falcon: 5 Dec at Saylorville Res in Polk (2012-57, A-P, IBL 83:59 [Dinsmore 2013]).

Rock Wren: 11 Oct at Hitchcock N.A. in Pottawattamie (2012-39, A-P, IBL 83:20).

Sprague's Pipit: 7-20 Oct at Errington M in Polk (2012-38, A-P, IBL 83:21, 24) and 3-11 Oct in Kossuth (2012-41, A-D, IBL 83:21).

Bohemian Waxwing: 8 Nov at Waterman Creek in O'Brien (2012-43, A-P, IBL 83:21).

Green-tailed Towhee: 17 May near Boone in Boone (2012-25, A-P, IBL 82:113 [Bahrenfus 2012]).

Le Conte's Sparrow: 12 Feb at Big Creek SP in Polk (2012-06, A-D, IBL 82:73).

Lazuli Bunting: 8-20 Jul near Rathbun Res in Appanoose (2012-31, A-P, IBL 82:162, 168) and 28 Jun Red Rock Res in Marion (2012-40, A-D, IBL 82:168).

Bullock's Oriole: 26 Nov 2011 to 21 Mar at Ottumwa in Wapello (2012-04, A-P, IBL 82:74,116, 82(2) cover [Masinda 2012]).

Red Crossbill (Type 3): 8 Nov at Hampton in Franklin (2012-53, A-R, IBL 83:32).

White-winged Crossbill: 7 Nov at Ames in Story (2012-52, A-P, IBL 83:32-33), 8-12 Nov at Hampton in Franklin (2012-49, A-P, IBL 83:32-33) and 26 Dec at Garner in Hancock (2012-55, A-D, *John Bissell).

Hoary Redpoll: 11 Feb at Storm Lake in Buena Vista (2012-05, A-D, IBL 82:75).

Evening Grosbeak: 7 Nov at Oxford in Johnson (2012-51, A-D, IBL 83:33), 10-11 Nov at Carroll in Carroll (2012-50, A-P, IBL 83:33) and 19 Nov at Ridgeway in Winnebago (2012-54, A-P, IBL 83:33).

OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME

Painted Bunting: 1 May 2007 near Chester in Howard (2012-AA, A-P, *Thomas Cray).

2012 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

Neotropical Cormorant: Inconsistencies between the written description and photos left the committee with reasonable doubt (2012-34).

Ferruginous Hawk: The committee struggled with this record because some key characteristic details were not discussed. Although most members felt that the ID was probably correct, the evidence just could not unequivocally eliminate a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk (2012-26).

King Rail: A bird heard once and identified from listening to a tape was

deemed insufficient evidence for what could very possibly have been a King Rail (2012-11).

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper: A less than optimal view left a description that could not exclude a juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper. The call as described did not match the published description for this species (2012-37).

California Gull: The identification was based in part on size although there is considerable overlap among different gull species. The bird was not seen in flight and some inconsistencies in coloration and age created reasonable doubt (2012-42).

Say's Phoebe: In a split vote, the committee maintained a conservative stance on accepting a record of a heard-only bird with no recording. Although most felt the ID was probably correct, the level of evidence was lacking (2012-09).

Sutton's Warbler: An obvious hybrid

warbler, the description just did not allow for it to be named an F1 cross Sutton's Warbler and it may well have been a back-cross (2012-35).

Black-headed Grosbeak: The observer's first impression was of an oriole and the brief view with the naked eye while driving could not discern enough detail to rule one out for a majority of committee members (2012-10).

Blue Grosbeak: A brief view of a bird which would have been a very early date even for Gulf Coast migration was intriguing but not conclusive (2012-47).

Pine Grosbeak: The description also fit a White-winged Crossbill, an irruptive species seen frequently in Iowa in the winter of 2012 (2012-44).

Evening Grosbeak: Some reviewers felt the inconsistencies in the report of a fly-over bird left them with reasonable doubt (2012-46).

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5362 120th Ave., Norwalk, IA 50211 (aj@hologrambirds.com)

Snowy Owls in Iowa, winter 2012-13

Paul Hertzel

During the fall and winter of 2012-13, at least 31 Snowy Owls (*Bubo scandiacus*) were found in Iowa. This total would be the largest irruption of Snowy Owls in Iowa since 1977 were it not for the fact it was a mere aftershock of the preceding season's huge, historic event. In 2011-12, a massive irruption of Snowy Owls across North America produced record numbers of birds in many southern locations, especially in the central regions of North America and the Pacific Coast, and even involved a first record for the Hawaiian Islands. In Iowa, an examination of an extraordinary 206 reports was thought to have resulted from at least 154 distinct individuals (Hertzel and Dinsmore 2012).

By comparison, the 31 observations of 2012-13 seems trivial, coming in the shadow of such an anomaly. But it deserves mention in this journal if for no other reason than it represents the second largest influx of Snowy Owls into Iowa in the last 35 years. Ordinarily, irruptions of Snowy Owls, which occur about every 5 or 6 years, result in 15–20 observations in Iowa. The previous irruption, in 2005-06, saw a season total of 19 observations (Hertzel 2006).

The timing and distribution of Snowy Owls in 2012-13 were similar to those of the previous season's major irruption, but the huge December peak in numbers never developed. The first birds were found in early November with numbers of new birds continuing through December and into January. Sightings then trailed off quickly in February, probably due in part to significant mortality (Figure 1). The distribution of owls in 2012-13 was

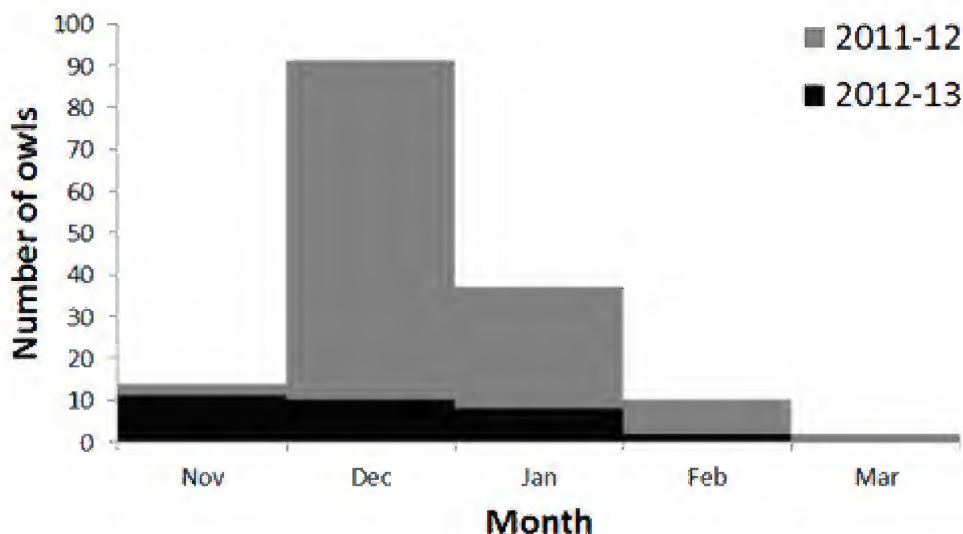


Figure 1. The number of Snowy Owls by month in Iowa, winters of 2011-12 and 2012-13.

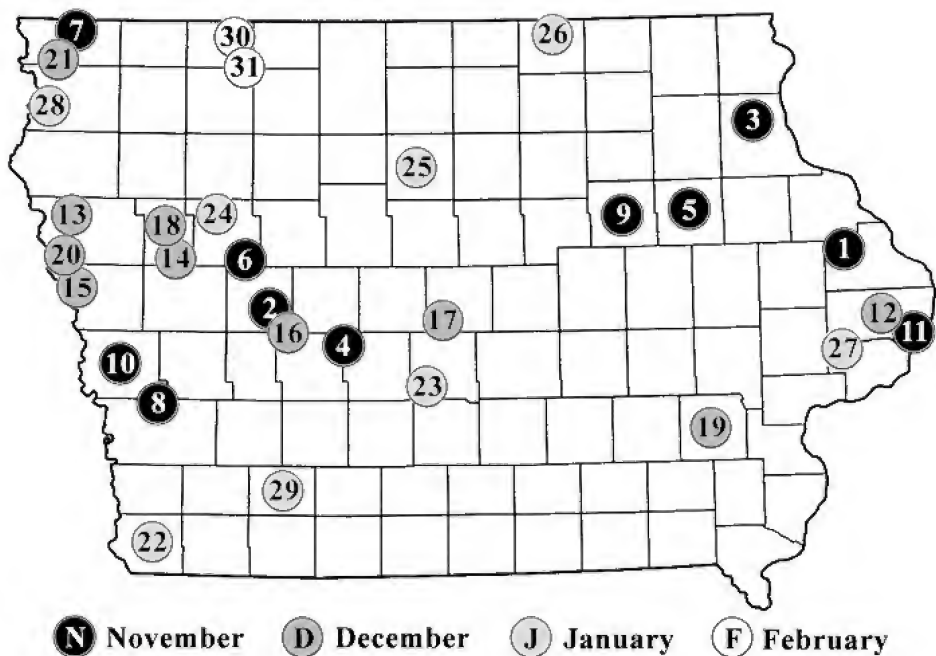


Figure 2. The distribution of Snowy Owls in Iowa by month, winter 2012-13. Numbers indicate the order by date of the 31 reports beginning with the first in Jackson County (1) and ending with the last in Dickinson County (31).

statewide, with individuals found in counties bordering each of the six states that border Iowa (Figure 2). However, 71% of sightings were in the western half of the state, exactly the same percentage as the previous season. The first was photographed in Jackson County on 1 November 2012 by Chuck Ernst. The last was found in Dickinson County on 20 February by Ed Thelen and was last seen on 21 February.

This report would not have been possible without the contributions of Steve Anderson, Derek Bakken, Connie Betts, Aaron Brees, Ann Burns, Sondra Cabel, Keith Dyche, Chuck Ernst, Sunday Ford, Jim Forde, Mike Granger, Jim Hamilton, Doug Harr, Helen Harvey, Pamela Holz, Clem Klaphake, Margie Kline, Tucker Lutter, Jim Mason, Emily Ostrander, Shane Patterson, Don Poggensee, Eric Rector, Christina Roelofs, Russell Royce, Jessica Steines, Ed Thelen, Jess Wagner, Matt Wetrich, Craig Zoellner.

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1432 E State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertzel@rconnect.com)

Gyr Falcon at Saylorville Reservoir

Stephen J. Dinsmore

On 5 December 2012 I planned a couple of brief stops at Saylorville Reservoir on my way to the Des Moines airport. When I arrived at the Big Creek spillway at 1:50 P.M. to scan the upper reaches of Saylorville, I immediately noticed that all of the ducks and gulls that normally loafed on the mudflats were sitting on the water. I jokingly thought that might indicate the presence of a predator like a Snowy Owl or Gyr Falcon. After I finished my scan of the water-birds I noticed a distant raptor perched on a horizontal log on the adjacent mudflats. The bird was >0.6 mi distant, so I couldn't see a lot of detail, but its size, appearance, and behavior suggested a Gyr Falcon and I decided I needed to drive to the other side of the lake for a closer look.

At approximately 2:30 P.M. I arrived at a parking lot south of the Jester Park boat ramp and quickly relocated the bird perched on a large log to the south. I then walked >0.5 mi south along the west shore of the lake to a point opposite the bird, studied it in detail, and concluded it was a juvenile Gyr Falcon. Some important features I noted included the dark-tipped bill with gray cere, distinctive head pattern (a pale crown with dark streaking/mottling, a dark eyeline, a narrow black whisker, and an otherwise pale white or light buff face and throat), dark gray-brown mantle and folded upperwings with prominent pale feather edgings, pale white or buff underparts marked by heavy darker streaking, a very long, white-barred tail that extended at least several inches beyond the tips of the folded wings at rest, and bluish-gray legs (especially) and feet. In flight, the underwings showed a small dark mark on the "wrist", darker mottling on the underwing linings, and silvery-gray undersides to the flight feathers, especially the primaries. The outermost primary (p10) was shorter than p8 and p9, which created a more rounded shape to the wings. On the whole, the bird had more broad-based, round-tipped wings than on other large falcons such as a Peregrine Falcon. Flight was low and direct, powerful, and when attacking the ducks the bird rose quickly above the birds at close range and initiated repeated attacks from above. It was always unsuccessful. On the basis of published literature I concluded this bird was a juvenile Gyr Falcon, probably the expected gray/intermediate morph. At times the color appeared a little darker than I expected for this color morph, trending more towards a dark morph, so it may have been an individual with an intermediate plumage. Color variation in Gyr Falcons is clinal (Booms et al. 2008), so this variation is normal.

This represents the eighth accepted record and southernmost report of a Gyr Falcon in Iowa. The previous records were from Boone (2), Cerro Gordo (1), Dickinson (1), Kossuth (1), and O'Brien (2) counties, all within the Des Moines Lobe landform that includes Iowa's Prairie Pothole Region. Reports have spanned the period September to March with no obvious pattern.

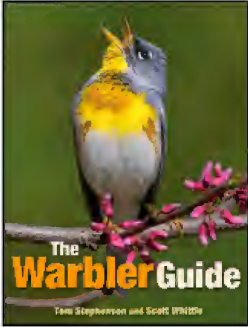
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5711 Valley Road, Ames, IA 50014 (cootjr@iastate.edu)

Book Review

Billy Reiter-Marolf



The Warbler Guide by Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle. 2013. 560 pp., 1,000+ color photographs, Princeton University Press, Princeton, ISBN 978-0-691-15482-4, \$29.95 (soft cover).

Warblers are some of the most challenging birds to correctly identify because of their small size, quick and erratic movements, varied plumages between seasons and sexes, and often-confusing high-pitched and similar-sounding vocalizations. Another aspect that makes them challenging for many birders is that fact that many of these species are only around

for a few weeks during spring and fall migration. I personally consider myself an intermediate at warbler identification. I am confident with several species, but when it comes to fall plumage and the subtler field marks and obscure songs and calls, I definitely have room for improvement. That is why I am excited about *The Warbler Guide*, the latest in a line of specialized texts that focuses on this challenging yet irresistible group of birds.

The Warbler Guide, similar to the *Crossley ID Guide* and the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, is too big and bulky to be a field guide. Rather, it is more suited as a reference that you can study in your home or car. The text starts with a tutorial on how to use the book and its maps, defines key terms and icons, and then offers a thorough “Topographic tour” of warbler plumage, which is essential for learning important field marks. The next section, called “What to notice on a warbler”, aims to accelerate the identification process by breaking down the most important warbler characteristics into five sections: contrast and color, size, shape, and behavior, the face, the body, and the undertail. Some of these comparisons were familiar to me, but some were new. I found myself learning about the subtleties of undertail plumage as well as the nuances of bill shape and color. I also appreciated the “Aging and sexing of warblers” section, where molt and seasonal plumages are discussed.

The sections on “Understanding sonograms” and “How to listen to warbler songs” were probably the most unique and extensive that I have seen about warbler vocalizations. Page after page of sonograms (visual representations of sound) are presented and described to facilitate song learning. The amount of detail is impressive and a little overwhelming. Some birders who study songs in a more traditional manner with audio recordings may not find these sections very useful. However, when paired with the audio I can see how these visual sonograms might accelerate the learning curve. I am certainly going to give it a try.

Despite the reference size and scope of this book, some visual “Quick finder” guides are also included starting on page 100. These “Quick finder” guides show a quick comparison of every species in some of the most commonly seen angles and plumages including face view, side view, 45-degree view, under view, East spring plumages, East fall plumages,

West plumages, and Western and Eastern undertail patterns. These quick finder guides are very good, but they are difficult to find when you are trying to identify a bird in a rush. Perhaps they should have been placed in either the front or the back of the book so that they could be accessed more quickly? I put a page tab on mine so that I can open right to that section if needed. For the tech savvy these “Quick finder” guides, as well as a quick guide to aging and sexing, are also available for download on the Princeton University Press website if you’d like copies to take into the field. In addition, all of the audio for each sonogram in the book is available for purchase, if that is of interest.

Like most birding guides, the majority of *The Warbler Guide* consists of species accounts. Each species account starts with relevant icons illustrating notable field marks, range, and typical breeding habitat location, and is accompanied by three photographs (illustrating side, 45-degree, and under views) along with text describing key field marks. Other distinctive views for each species are included along with additional views that highlight species-specific behavioral characteristics and plumage variations by sex, age, and season. Comparison photos of similar-looking species are also included, followed by aging and sexing information and the species-specific sonograms of vocalizations. Most warbler species have multiple species accounts in this text to highlight the differences between spring and fall plumage, males and females, and bright versus drab birds when appropriate.

For most birders, *The Warbler Guide* will be a welcome addition to your birding book collection. It may be too large for the field, but spend some time with it and undoubtedly your warbler ID in the field will benefit. The authors strived to address every aspect of warblers that makes them both interesting and challenging, and to my knowledge I don’t know of another book that rises to that challenge like *The Warbler Guide*.

2003 Vista View Drive, Granger, IA 50109 (wreiterm@iastate.edu)

Fifty Years Ago in Iowa Bird Life

James J. Dinsmore

Almost half of the September 1963 issue consists of a checklist of Iowa birds by Martin Grant. Grant lists 361 bird species and uses a complex and sometimes confusing system to classify what he calls the status of each species (e.g., A = abundant, N = nesting, W = winter visitor, etc). Although Grant accepted a number of sightings that have not been accepted by more recent workers, the paper did provide a useful summary of many records of Iowa's birds.

Two obituaries of pioneer birders in Iowa are an important contribution of this issue. Charles J. Spiker, a charter member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, was a prominent birder in Iowa in the 1920s. He, along with Walter Rosene and T.C. Stephens, was responsible for bringing together in Ames in February 1923, a group of people interested in birds. This led to the formation of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and for this he was considered one of the three founders of the organization. He spent most of his early life in Iowa, attending Morningside College and working on farms or teaching school. He was well known for his use of a bicycle as a means of travel. In 1926 he pedaled some 3500 miles in Iowa, going from Sioux City south along the western border, east to the Mississippi, then north to McGregor, and finally to his parent's home in New Hampton. He eventually bicycled west to Ashton, Iowa where he became superintendent of schools. In 1928 he began taking various temporary jobs in New York and in 1935 bought a farm near Branchport, New York where he lived until his death in 1963.

Walter W. Bennett was also a Charter Member of the IOU and served as its President in the 1930s. A graduate of Grinnell College, he held a variety of jobs, eventually moving to Sioux City where he spent many years, studying and photographing birds and publishing a number of articles about Iowa's birds. He became well known for his excellent photographs of birds and often gave illustrated lectures on birds at various scientific meetings. He worked at national parks and wildlife refuges for several years and then went into the insurance business in California but returned every spring to Arnolds Park where he died in 1963.

Shorter articles include one by Mary Lou Petersen describing her experiences with banding Ring-billed and Herring gulls on an island off Door County, Wisconsin, in Lake Michigan. In particular, she noted how the Ring-bills were more aggressive than their larger relative. Another article by William Youngworth describes his experiences with Merlins in western Iowa and speculates on whether someone will be able to locate nesting Merlins in the state. The field reports section continued to grow with numerous records of nesting by various species during the summer months. Among the short notes is one by J. Harold Ennis relating stories of Greater Prairie-Chickens at Mt. Vernon in the 1860s and 1880s.

646 Mallory Hill Drive, The Villages, FL 32162 (oldcoot@iastate.edu)

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Business Meeting

12 October 2013

The IOU fall business meeting was held at the Mississippi River EcoTourism Center at Rock Creek Marina and Campground near Camanche. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 3:57 P.M. In attendance were Dennis Thompson, vice-president; Stuart Sparkman, secretary; Mary Beth Hunt, treasurer; board members Jay Gilliam, Gerald White, Tyler Harms, Keith Dyche, and Karen Viste-Sparkman, and members of the organization.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 4 May 2013 meeting. No comments were received. President Roisen declared the minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Beth Hunt explained that mid-year examination of the budget does not give an accurate picture of our finances, since timing and billing of expenses and publications will vary from year to year. Donations are up by about \$5,700, but this is due to expenses not taken out yet. Projects expenses are down \$2,500 from last year, as budgeted. Publications spending is down, due to two issues of *Iowa Bird Life* published so far this year versus three published in 2012. Overall, net income is up, but this is due to project donations money not spent. Interest income is down about \$260. Membership dues appear to be up and publications expenses down only because of the timing of the report. Publications expenses will actually exceed budget by year's end. *Iowa Bird Life* cost \$1,000 more than budgeted, and IOU News \$600 more than expected. At the upcoming budget meeting in November the Board of Directors will discuss how to deal with these losses. Mary Beth invited members to stay informed by accessing financial records on the IOU website.

Membership Coordinator's Report: President Roisen presented a report from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen. Membership is holding steady compared to last year. Total membership is currently at 406, including 22 new members in 2013 (three of whom were in attendance at the IOU fall meeting this weekend) and 23 library members who are receiving our publications. There are currently 47 life members of IOU. Members are encouraged to spread the word to others about the benefits of IOU membership and to refer people to the IOU website to learn about the organization.

Library/Historical Committee: Hank Zaletel presented. At the spring meeting in Cedar Falls it was announced that Hank and others would revise a previously published teachers' activity book about Iowa birds. The original edition is out of date. They received a gift of \$200 from an IOU member for expenses toward this project. An Iowa State University professor has volunteered to assist with the rewrite and will procure additional editorial assistance from a graduate student. The intent is that the final product will be available without cost through the IOU website, or available in CD format by special request for a small fee.

Tim Schantz was a young Iowa birder and IOU member who served on the re-

cords committee years ago. After leaving Iowa he spent some time in Alaska as a tour guide, but died suddenly in 2001. His family has created a scholarship in his memory and has given his personal birding records from his time in Iowa to IOU. Members can access these records and many others in the IOU archives, housed in the Special Collections at the Iowa State University library [email: archives@iastate.edu].

The Library/Historical Committee has increased in size, but additional members are welcome. Interested parties should contact Hank.

Membership Committee: Doug Harr presented a report. New recruitment posters publicizing the IOU were made available and members were asked for assistance in posting them at conservation centers, colleges, and any public places that people interested in nature may frequent. Members were invited to take posters, have them put up, and report back to Doug or Karen Disbrow about where they are displayed.

A survey of lapsed members is ongoing to determine why members are leaving IOU. The committee will report to the board when this task is complete. Preliminary results indicate most are students or retirees who have left the state.

New clothing items with the IOU logo will be offered soon. Possibilities include fleece vest, fleece zipper shirt, fleece pull-over, and fleece windbreaker. A show of hands gave an indication of member interest and will be considered when deciding which items to offer.

Publications Committee: We are \$900 over budget for publications for the year. Ann Johnson announced that after the final issue of 2013, the default option for receiving *IOU News* will be electronic.

Those who opt for a printed copy will receive their copy in whatever print format is most cost effective. John Bissell clarified details of this policy change.

Steve Dinsmore again requests help with *Iowa Bird Life*. Editors have resigned and have not been replaced. Despite numerous pleas from the editor-in-chief, members have not stepped forward to assist in providing articles. Submissions of general articles are down to zero without coercion. Members willing to contribute to *Iowa Bird Life* should contact Steve.

Records Committee: Ann Johnson reported that Ross Silcock goes off the committee at the end of this year. A replacement will be nominated soon. The board was previously authorized to purchase a scanner for use in transferring records to digital form. No purchase has yet been made.

Projects Committee: Tyler Harms spoke on behalf of Bruce Ehresman. There has been an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to help fund projects for this year. The committee is waiting for the budget from board of directors for 2014. Requests for proposals will go out after the first of the year.

OLD BUSINESS

Spring Meeting: Past vice-president Tom Schilke and current vice-president Denny Thompson were recognized and thanked for finding an excellent venue for this meeting, and many people were thanked for their hard work in organizing the event.

Previous speculation was that Sac County might be the host to the 2014 IOU spring meeting. This is not the case. Instead, our spring meeting will coincide with that of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union on 16-18 May 2014. The gathering

will occur at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue Nebraska. Field trips will include birding on both sides of the Missouri River.

NEW BUSINESS

Communications: Ann Johnson has plans to redesign the IOU website to make it more compatible with touchscreen devices. She asked for volunteers to write about birding sites by county as part of this website update.

President Roisen initiated a discussion about modes of communicating between members. The IOU listserv, Facebook, and Twitter were mentioned. A show of hands was asked for to indicate how many use each of these. Listserv user numbers are almost at the upper limit of the number for which we are paying. We pay \$400 per year for 1000 subscribers. When we surpass 1000 the cost will double. The board of directors has discussed how the organization should best communicate with members, and has directed the membership committee to explore the matter. Rick Hollis will be asked to investigate whether there is an alternative to the listserv that will serve us better, and may advise us how to proceed. Other conservation-minded groups may be consulted on their communication practices.

Annual Audit: An audit of IOU's fi-

nances will be undertaken this year by Tom Schilke and Francis Moore.

Iowa Young Birders (IYB): Carl Bendorf presented a report on the activities of IYB. IOU has sponsored two field trips this year. Five young birders had a trip on the morning of this meeting. There have been 18 field trips so far. Twenty-two youth have been on four or more of these trips. Carl asked for IOU members' input on IYB activities and thanked the members for our organization's financial support.

Future Meetings: President Paul Roisen stressed the positives of receiving invitations from local individuals or groups to host future meetings. Prairie Rapids Audubon earned \$600 for the club by catering two of the meals at the spring 2013 meeting, so this is a good fund-raising opportunity. Having local "boots on the ground" makes it much easier to put on the meetings. He encouraged membership to take a more active participation in offering to host a meeting. The IOU is currently searching for fall 2014 and spring 2015 sites.

Hank Zaletel moved to adjourn. Walt Stephenson seconded. Motion carried. IOU Fall 2013 meeting adjourned at 4:47 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Iowa Ornithologists' Union

Board of Directors Meeting

12 October 2013

The IOU fall board meeting was held at the Mississippi River EcoTourism Center at Rock Creek Marina and Campground near Camanche. President Paul Roisen called the meeting to order at 12:33 P.M. In attendance were directors Dennis Thompson, Gerald White, Karen Viste-Sparkman, Keith Dyche, Jay Gilliam, Stuart Sparkman, Mary Beth Hunt, and Tyler Harms. Also present were Ann Johnson, Steve Dinsmore, Doug Harr, and John Bissell.

Welcome: President Roisen welcomed Board of Directors and guests to the meeting. He congratulated Dennis Thompson, Gerald White, and Tyler Harms on assuming their new positions.

Secretary's Report: President Roisen called for the minutes to be approved for the 4 May 2013 Board of Directors meeting. No additions or corrections to the previous minutes were offered. Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Treasurer's Report: Donations are up by about \$5,700, but this is due to expenses not paid out yet. Funds spent on projects are down \$2,500 from last year as budgeted. Publications spending is down due to two issues of *Iowa Bird Life* being published so far in 2013 versus three published over the entire year of 2012. Overall net income is up, but this is due to project donations money not yet spent. Membership dues appear up because of the timing of this report, fewer projects funded this year, and publications expenses being down. Publications will actually exceed budget by year's end.

Mary Beth asked when money pledged

to the Breeding Bird Atlas project should be disbursed. A CD matures on 3 January 2013. Steve and Ann believe there will be no problem waiting until after this date to disburse funds.

Mary Beth asked how much detail to present to membership during treasurer's report at the business meeting. President Roisen responded that it should be essentially the same as presented during the board meeting, but also remarked that membership should be able to access detailed financial information on the website.

Membership Coordinator's Report: Membership is holding steady compared to last year. Total membership is currently at 406, including 22 new members in 2013 (three of whom are in attendance this weekend) and 23 library members who are receiving our publications. There are currently 47 life members of IOU. The board was reminded that many of these life members continue to generously contribute to IOU, and some even continue to pay dues. Clarification was made about membership terms. If a person joins after 1 October, the membership includes the rest of the current year and the entire next year. President

Rosen encouraged everyone to maintain our membership numbers by continuing to recruit members with information about our group, current members keeping their personal data current on the IOU website, and renewing memberships through the website.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

These reports will be given during general membership meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Committee: Doug Harr presented a report from the Membership Committee. This group now has five committee members and may have another soon. A committee goal was to survey the previous year's lapsed members about why they left. This project has been delayed, but is about half done. Preliminary results suggest most people in this group either retired or graduated school and have left Iowa. This committee has new logo items to present this weekend and will ask for members' opinions about these at general meeting. Rick Hollis has put forth the idea of producing a short summary book about birding in Iowa (to include some information on distribution of species and birding sites) that could be used as recruitment tool.

Records Committee: This group was previously authorized to purchase a scanner for the purpose of digitizing records. This purchase has not yet occurred.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Steve Dinsmore reported that the committee is deep into the project, and members are currently writing species accounts. Another committee meeting will occur soon. Steve is hopeful that publishing will occur in the first half of next year.

Next meeting: Previous speculation was that Sac County might be the host for a 2014 spring IOU meeting. This is not the case. Instead, our spring meeting will coincide with that of the Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, 16-18 May 2014. The gathering will occur at Fontenelle Forest in Bellevue, Nebraska. Field trips will include birding on both sides of the Missouri River.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget meeting: This fall's budget meeting will occur on 16 November 2013 at 10 A.M. It will be hosted by Doug and Mary Beth Hunt in Oskaloosa. A new financial report format will be presented at this meeting. This format is intended to make the accounting easier and to make financial reports easier to read and understand.

Annual audit: An audit of IOU's finances will be undertaken this year by Tom Schilke and Francis Moore.

Local group involvement: Prairie Rapids Audubon did a great job at our spring meeting. Unfortunately we don't have local groups like this everywhere to assist us in organizing our meetings. It is very difficult to set up a meeting at a site with no cooperating local group. Ann suggested that Doug would be a good resource in finding such groups, due to his statewide experience with DNR and Audubon. Gerald suggested conservation groups other than birding groups, Sierra Club for instance, might be willing to help.

Publications Committee: Stuart moved that Jim Dinsmore be re-appointed to the Publications Committee through 2018. Tyler seconded. Motion carried.

After the final issue of 2013, the de-

fault option for receiving *IOU News* will be electronically. Those who opt for a printed copy will receive their copy in whichever print format is most cost effective.

Communications: Gerald expressed concern that we are not providing anything unique to members. In other words, people can receive all benefits of IOU membership without actually joining or paying dues. IOU should provide some benefits that only members can access. One possibility is the IOU Twitter account, which already exists but is not being used. It was suggested that electronic communications about IOU activities and bird sightings be a topic for education among members, perhaps as an informative session at a future IOU meet-

ing. There was some debate about whether the members are better served by sharing information via multiple communication systems (listserv, Twitter, Facebook) or by concentrating on one of those. Gerald will further consider the use of Twitter and the broader issue of communications, and the matter will be discussed again.

Next Board Meeting: The next board meeting will be held at Bellevue, Nebraska on 17 May 2014.

The board of directors meeting was adjourned at 1:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Stuart Sparkman, secretary

Photo Quiz

Stephen J. Dinsmore

The quiz bird in the last issue (*Iowa Bird Life* 83:87) was perhaps a little tougher than I anticipated! The bird is standing in shallow water, and the combination of a plump body, long legs and bill, and a small head are all clues that this is a shorebird (Order Charadriiformes). More than 30 species of shorebirds occur annually in Iowa, so we need to narrow the options. Size won't be all that useful because there are no other birds for comparison. One further challenge with photos is that we can't rely on behavior, which is often helpful with this particular group. With shorebirds, it is often easier to begin by eliminating other groups or species. This bird lacks the stubby bill of a plover, so that group is out. The bill shape eliminates both godwits. All three phalaropes have shorter legs and bills, among other differences. Dowitchers and snipe also have shorter legs, but a longer, thicker bill. And the bird isn't a smaller "peep" (Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, etc.) because of its long legs and bill. The bird has dull yellow-green legs, so what about a yellowlegs? This is a good guess, but the bill and head pattern provide clues to eliminate these two species. This bird's bill is evenly tapered from a wider base to a narrow tip, droops slightly at the tip, and is longer than the length of the head (measured from the base of the bill to the rear of the crown behind the eye). It also shows a prominent white supercilium (eyebrow) and a hint of brown color on the crown, lores, and cheek. Lesser Yellowlegs has a less tapered, straight bill while Greater Yellowlegs has a straight or even slightly upturned bill. Both species also lack an obvious supercilium and generally lack any brown color on the head. Another possibility is Pectoral Sandpiper, which also has yellow-green legs. However, Pectoral Sandpiper usually has a browner appearance overall, shorter legs, some orange or yellow color at the bill base, a less contrasting head pattern, and a more sharply demarcated darker "bib" on the breast. There is one good candidate we have not yet considered—Stilt Sandpiper. A Stilt Sandpiper has dull yellow-green legs and also a unique bill shape that closely matches what is seen on this bird. But most of us are used to seeing Stilt Sandpipers in spring when they show striking dark barring on the underparts and a rich chestnut color on the crown and cheeks. If you look closely at this bird you can see the remnants of this chestnut color on the head, in exactly the same regions as on a spring adult. One other feature I haven't mentioned is the mantle (back). The pattern on this bird is a dark (almost black) background color with patchy pale gray feathers, which is just what we expect to see on a molting adult Stilt Sandpiper in fall. The molt on the under parts is nearly complete; the darker barring is gone and has been replaced by pale gray mottling. The lack of any richer, buffy tones to the plumage rules out a juvenile Stilt Sandpiper, or something rare like a Ruff. I photographed this molting adult Stilt Sandpiper at Red Rock Res, Marion, on 27 August 2005.



*Spotted Towhee,
Boone, 2 May 2013.
Photograph by Larry
Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Yellow Warbler, West
L, Clarke, 12 May
2013. Photograph by
Reid Allen, West Des
Moines, IA.*

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <www.iowabirds.org>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

Photos and graphics: Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at cootjr@iastate.edu. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU News Co-editors: John and Anna Bissell, 328 SE Cedarwood Drive, Grimes, IA50111-1143 (John.annabissell@gmail.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <www.iowabirds.org>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster

IOWA RBA: John Bissell (john.annabissell@gmail.com)

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net).

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Subscribe at <www.iowabirds.org>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Update your on-line profile at <www.iowabirds.org> or send address and e-mail changes to Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Spring: 16–18 May 2014, Bellevue, Nebraska (joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists' Union).

FRONT COVER PHOTO: Bewick's Wren, Decatur, 1 May 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.

BACK COVER PHOTO: American Avocet, Dunbar Sl, Greene, 1 May 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

DESIGN: Marshall Desktop Publishing Inc., Evergreen, CO

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Boone, IA

PRINTER: Centennial Printing, Louisville, CO



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